MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 JANUARY 1983

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- The delegations resumed the seventh round of talks at Khaldah with discussions on ending the state of war and on security arrangements, IDF Radio reported on 17 January citing the Israeli delegation spokesman. However, Beirut radio reported earlier that Lebanon would insist that the question of military withdrawals be given priority over all other matters. A Lebanese Information Ministry dispatch broadcast by the radio said the Lebanese would present a comprehensive plan for the withdrawal of foreign forces. The Beirut paper AL-ANWAR meanwhile announced that Lebanon would propose an Israeli pullback to 15 km south of Beirut, the radio reported. Earlier, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil explained the Lebanese position in the negotiations in a message delivered to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad by a Lebanese envoy, SANA reported.

Responding to the U.S. call for the acceleration of the negotiations, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin meanwhile announced that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, and Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche will represent Israel on a special team which will hold daily contacts with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib, according to Jerusalem and IDF Radio reports. Habib had asserted that the negotiations could finish in a week if Israel were to change its method of conducting them, the radio said, and the Israeli leaders decided to "agree a little" to Habib's request. However, Israel and the United States still disagree over Israel's desire to establish early warning stations in Lebanon, its opposition to a UNIFIL presence in the proposed security zone, and its insistence that Major Sa'd Haddad's forces be given special status in the south, the radio noted.

In a 15 January Jerusalem television interview, Foreign Minister Shamir reiterated Israel's stand that the PLO fighters should be the first to withdraw from Lebanon.

Security Situation -- Intermittent clashes between Druze and Christian milita continued throughout the weekend in the Ash-Shuf mountain area, according to Beirut radio and other local radios. On 15 January the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that 15 socialists and communists were killed during violent clashes in the 'Alayh area.

An IDF soldier was slightly wounded when an IDF convoy was ambushed near Tyre, ITIM reported. According to the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, the "national armed struggle organization" claimed responsibility for the operation. In a statement the organization said that Israeli losses amounted to approximately 15 persons killed or wounded, the radio added.

Israel

Begin Invitation to Jordan -- Prime Minister Begin repeated his invitation to Jordan to discuss the future of Judaea and Samaria with Israel on the basis of the Camp David accords, Jerusalem television reported citing Begin's remarks to a visiting delegation of U.S. Jewish leaders. The prime minister stated that he will "not oppose" including Arab leaders from Judaea and Samaria "who are not PLO people" in the Jordanian delegation, the report added.

Denial of Pact with PLO -- Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir vehemently denied Paris-originated reports quoting him as having said that on the eve of the "Peace for Galilee Operation" Israel rejected a PLO proposal for a nonaggression pact, IDF Radio reported. Sharir described the Paris reports as "distorted" and "malicious," the radio added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Diplomatic Contacts -- Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz held talks in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on 14 January and then met in Damascus with Syrian President al-Asad on 15 and 16 January, according to reports by INA and Damascus television and radio. Radio Monte Carlo described the Syrian-Saudi talks as extremely significant and comprehensive and said they are expected to produce important results. An earlier report by the radio indicated that Saudi Arabia may be embarking on a new attempt to mediate between Syria and Iraq.

In another development Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Halim Khaddam, who gave Fahd a message from Hafiz al-Asad, SPA reported on 16 January. Khaddam will also carry messages from Al-Asad to Kuwait, Behrain, Qatar, and the UAE, Damascus television noted.

The Saudi king also held talks with visiting Jordanian King Husayn on 16 January, SPA reported. The two sides stressed the need to step up Arab diplomatic action to achieve Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and from other occupied Arab territories, Amman radio noted. Husayn had earlier discussed Arab and international developments in a 3-hour meeting in Baghdad with Saddam Husayn, according to the radio. Husayn's visits to Saudi Arabia and Iraq are part of a wider Arab tour in which he will acquaint leaders of "fraternal countries" with the results of his recent diplomatic contacts with U.S., Soviet, and PRC leaders, Jordanian sources announced in a statement reported by KUNA.

Libyan-Palestinian Statement -- A statement issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the PFLP-General Command, As-Sa'iqah, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and Libya's "Revolutionary Command" rejected all forms of recognition, negotiation, and peacemaking with "the expansionist Zionist state," affirming that what was taken by force can only be recovered by force. The statement, which was issued at the end of the Palestinian groups' conference in Libya and was broadcast by the Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland radio, also rejected the Fes summit resolutions and the Reagan plan. It likewise rejected joint Palestinian-Jordanian diplomatic moves, denounced Iraqi policy toward Egypt and Israel, and called for Arab rejection of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. Palestinian-Syrian relations should be consolidated, the statement added, and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front should be rebuilt.

PLO

'Arafat Activities -- After his visit to Moscow, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat flew to Baghdad for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, INA reported. The PLO leader arrived in Damascus on 16 January to chair PLO leadership meetings lasting 2 days, according to Khartoum SUNA. Meanwhile, in a statement reported by the Qatari paper AL-'ARAB, 'Arafat warned that Israel will shortly launch an attack against Palestinian forces in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley, QNA reported. While asserting that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are becoming more cohesive and powerful, 'Arafat stressed that so far there is no possibility of forming a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation for any future peace talks.

PLO Military Command -- All of the PLO's military organizations will be unified soon under one command, Fatah military commander Khalil al-Wazir disclosed in an interview with AFP. Al-Wazir denied that Fatah has decided to transfer its military command headquarters to Jordan and that King Husayn has agreed to allow Fatah to carry out military operations from Jordan. Israel is disseminating these reports to undermine Jordanian-Palestinian relations, he contended.

Arab-UK Relations

The conditions imposed by Great Britain on the Arab seven-member committee are an affront to Arab dignity, Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi declared in a 14 January Manama press conference reported by WAKH. Meanwhile, British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister of State Douglas Hurd announced in a press statement reported by Radio Monte Carlo that Britain will not pressure the PLO to recognize Israel before any peace negotiations and that official PLO-British contacts are currently underway with a view to solving the issue of PLO representation on the Arab seven-member committee.

Earlier, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan denied that the PLO has elected former Halhul Mayor Muhammad Hasan Milhim to represent it during the committee's visit to Britain and affirmed that the PLO insists on its stance regarding the presence of a PLO official in the Arab delegation, the Jidda paper AL-MADINAH reported.

Oil Ministers Meeting

Eight OPEC ministers agreed in Bahrain to hold a "crisis" meeting of the organization on 23 January in Geneva to head off a possible oil price collapse, the Bahraini paper GULF DAILY NEWS reported. Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said there was a "good chance" an agreement would be reached on sharing the dwindling oil market, the paper added. According to the paper, Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi stated that the "rule-abiding majority" in OPEC might cut prices to restore flagging sales unless other members stopped breaching price and output accords. OPEC President Nigerian Oil Minister Mallam Yahya Dikko said he believed that Libya -- one of the countries reported to have been discounting prices to increase sales -- "might fall into line," the paper noted.

Iraq-Iran War

Iraqi air defense shot down an Iranian helicopter in the Ash-Shib region on 14 January, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. Iraqi planes launched 66 combat missions against Iranian positions in the Maysan sector and military targets in Iran on 16 January, according to another Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LIBYAN-PALESTINIAN ACTION PROGRAM DRAWN UP

LD162308 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution met this evening with leaders of the groups of the Palestinian resistance who ended their conference today: George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-General Command; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DPFLP); Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front; Haytham 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; and 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the vanguards of the Popular Liberation War Organization-As-Sa'iqah forces; Brother [name indistinct], member of the PFLP Political Bureau; Fadl Sharur, member of the Political Bureau of the PFLP-General Command; Jamil Hilal, member of the DPFLP Political Bureau; and Muhammad Khalifah, member of the General Command of the As-Sa'iqah forces and member of the PLO Executive Committee.

The brother leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA in which he said that a program of political action and armed action of the Palestinian resistance has been drawn up between Libya and the Palestinian fronts which held their conference in Tripoli -- with the exception of the Fatah organization, which failed to attend this meeting -- which is considered to be one of the most important meetings at this historic stage.

The brother leader added that in accordance with this no one may take action on the Palestinian issue [words indistinct], and these fronts constitute the vast majority of the Palestinian resistance.

Statement on Meeting

LD162356 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Jan 83

["Text" of statement issued at end of conference of Palestinian resistance groups in Tripoli 16 January]

[Text] In the period 10-16 January 1983, the PFLP, the DPP [Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine], the PFLP Command, the organization of the Vanguards of the Popular Liberation Struggle-As-Sa'iqah forces, and the Popular Struggle Front met in Tripoli with the Revolutionary Command of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to evaluate the results of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary invasion of Lebanon and to discuss what the Arab patriotic and revolutionary states and forces are called upon to do to discharge the tasks of facing up to the front of the enemies and its plots, and in order to face up to the Zionist death train. This is supplied with U.S. weapons and technology and is backed by reactionary Arab oil money, which seeks to destroy the Arab nation one state at a time. And this comes after it has become confirmed once again that the Zionist state is the main element implementing the aims of international imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism, in the Arab homeland and exposes the face of the imperialist-Arab reactionary alliance.

We regard the struggle which is taking place between our Arab nation and the Zionists as a struggle for existence. Proceeding from this we confirm our rejection of all forms of recognition, negotiation, and peace-making with the expansionist Zionist state. The nature of this struggle confirms that what was taken by force cannot be recovered except by force and that armed struggle is the major means in our struggle to recover our national rights to the liberation of Palestine and all the occupied Arab areas.

The crisis of the Arab liberation movement basically is ideological, social, organizational, and populist. This crisis shows itself in the inability of the groups of this movement to shoulder their role in mobilizing the masses against the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary onslaught. This calls for a courageous critical reexamination at regional and pan-Arab levels to ensure the participation of the masses in struggle against the enemy.

The unity of progressive forces should be based on a frontal and broad program that develops in the course of the struggle toward unified ideological foundations and building a single Arab movement. Proceeding from this, the groups of the Palestinian resistance which have been in conference, affirm the importance of and the need for joint action and struggle to consolidate Palestinian national unity on the bases of adhering to the Palestinian National Charter and the PLO's political program and the resolutions of the National Council. This is in order to confront and foil all capitulationist and liquidationist schemes. And in the framework of confronting the perils which surround the Palestinian revolution, we affirm the following stands and issues:

I. Concerning ideological problems:

A. The participants agree that the crisis of the Arab liberation movement is basically an ideological, social, organizational, and populist crisis and agree to hold an intellectual conference of progressive pan-Arab and revolutionary Arab intellectuals for this purpose.

B. To hold a conference of the pan-Arab liberation movement groups in order to produce a broad frontal program which will develop through democratic dialogue in the struggle to unify ideological bases and build a single Arab movement.

C. To form a preparatory committee for the conference.

II. The participants have agreed to discuss the operation of the organizational and military structure of the militant experiment in light of critical reexamination of the experience of past years and on the basis of conviction in the pan-Arabism of the battle and, specifically, the pan-Arabism of the fedayeen action against the Zionist enemy.

III. The participants affirm the following:

1. That struggle with the Zionist enemy is a struggle for existence and the pan-Arab existence contradicts the Zionist existence in Palestine. Therefore, the participants declare: no negotiation, no recognition, and no reconciliation [sulh] with the Zionist enemy.

2. To adhere to the Palestinian National Charter, the resolutions of the Palestine National Council, the political program and the Tripoli unity document.

3. To adhere to the rifle and armed struggle as a way to liberate Palestine.

4. To reject the Fes summit as a way, a course of action, and a decision on the basis that Arab reaction -- which hindered the convening of an Arab summit throughout the period of the invasion of Lebanon and the battle of Beirut -- had, at the Fes summit which was held in September 1982, worked to exploit the results of this battle and benefited from the broad defect in the balance of forces in the area in order to adopt a number of resolutions which sought to drag the Arab states and the PLO into joining the capitulationist schemes, and particularly the Reagan scheme. The line of the Arab reaction, which was demonstrated at the Fes summit, calls for recognition of the Zionist enemy and seeks to reach a meeting point with the Reagan scheme and to make the liquidationist Camp David agreements universal.

It seeks to disown the resolutions of the Arab summit, which affirm the right of the Palestinian people to return, to self-determination and national independence, and affirms the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

5. To reject the Reagan plan because in its line and contents it denies the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people and it aims at liquidating the Palestinian issue and at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict to enable the United States to spread its domination over the Arab area. It also antagonizes our people's right to return and to self-determination and the establishment of their national and independent state on their national soil and it denies the PLO its position as a sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It constitutes a U.S. interpretation of the Camp David agreements and, therefore, the groups in conference call on all patriotic Arab forces to confront and foil it.

6. To reject the scheme of the autonomy whether in the form of the Camp David or in the form of the Reagan plan and also the scheme of civilian administration which the Zionist occupation is trying to impose, and to confront all attempts to find a substitute or to have civilian leaderships and cadres substitute for the PLO.

7. To adhere to Palestinian national unity within the framework of the PLO on the basis of a commitment to the National Charter, political program, and the resolutions of the National Council adopted during their successive sessions.

8. To adhere to the firm, national, and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people which have been confirmed by the resolutions of the Arab summits, primarily the right of return, self-determination, and an independent state and the PLO as a sole and legitimate representative.

9. To safeguard the Palestinian national decision within the framework of deepening our national and pan-Arab aims and to reject all attempts to encroach on the independent national decision and the attempts to drag the PLO into making concessions in favor of the Reagan plan or granting authority to any Arab front or quarter to act for the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative.

10. to struggle against the attempts of dragging the PLO into recognition of the expansionist state of the Zionist enemy and to withstand any Arab attempts to recognize the enemy.

11. Proceeding from our firm adherence to the national and firm rights of our people and to the PLO as a sole legitimate representative, we reject all forms of granting the Jordanian regime authority to act for our people or to participate together with elements from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On that basis we reject any joint framework of Palestinian-Jordanian action which contradicts the previous articles. We affirm that any relations of unity with any Arab country to be established by our people take place following the emergence of the independent state on Palestinian national soil and on the basis of voluntary option.

12. To struggle for the freedom of Palestinian political, organizational, and information action in Jordan in implementation of the National Council and of the Arab summits.

13. Proceeding from the resolutions of the Palestine National Council concerning the Camp David agreements and what they entail, we affirm our adherence to these resolutions, which call for not establishing relations with the Egyptian regime, that its isolation should continue, and that it should be besieged until the Camp David policy and its consequences are overthrown, including the attempts to make the Egyptian regime act for the Palestinian people.

14. To continue the strengthening of militant relations with the masses of fraternal Egypt under the leadership of their patriotic and progressive forces and to strengthen their struggle to overthrow Camp David and to do what is required to restore Egypt to the Arab nation.

15. To denounce the calls of the Iraqi regime to lift the siege of the Mubarak regime and the regime's abandonment of the Baghdad summit resolutions, to denounce the regime's calls for recognition of the Zionist enemy and direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, and to call on the Palestinian revolution forces and the pan-Arab liberation movement to boycott the Iraqi regime and strengthen their relations with the patriotic and progressive Iraqi forces.

16. To call on all Arab states, primarily the patriotic and progressive states, and the patriotic and progressive Arab forces to reject the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations and their results, which aim to make Lebanon join Camp David, impose a treaty of capitulation on it, and normalize relations with it, because all this concerns Lebanon's independence and the unity of its territory, also because it inflicts the greatest harm to the struggle of the fraternal Lebanese people and their resistance of Israeli occupation, and because it would lead to the isolation of Lebanon from its Arab circle and put it under the sphere of influence of the United States and Israel.

17. To support the Lebanese masses and their patriotic forces, and to call on all Arab and international patriotic and progressive states and forces to support the patriotic Lebanese forces against Israeli occupation and to consolidate the patriotic Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian alliance on the basis of the joint struggle against Israeli occupation and its conditions for surrender.

18. To work for safeguarding the Palestinians' security, political, and social rights in Lebanon in accordance with Lebanon's Arab commitments toward the Palestinian issue.

19. Consolidating relations between the Palestinian revolution and Syria in view of it being the security confrontation line in the joint struggle against the Camp David agreements and all the capitulatory solutions headed by the Reagan plan, and for the sake of safeguarding national rights for the liberation of occupied Arab territories and securing the Palestinian people's right of return and self-determination, the establishment of its independent national state and to denounce all attempts which seek to destroy Palestinian-Syrian relations.

20. To consolidate the fateful alliance between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Palestinian revolution on the basis of the pan-Arab program of struggle and against all the schemes of capitulationist solutions and the attempt to bring the Arab nation to its knees, and to stand alongside it against the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracies.

21. Consolidating relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Arab patriotic states on the basis of the struggle against imperialist countries, Zionism, and Arab reaction, and against the Camp David agreements and all capitaulationist solutions headed by the Reagan plan and the negotiations of the faits accomplis which are taking place in Lebanon.

22. To make efforts to rebuild the steadfastness front on scientific bases that will secure implementation of its pan-Arab duties, transforming it from a front of political position as it became clear in Lebanon, into a front that masses its political, military, and economic energies to confront the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary (?attack) and to guarantee putting its resolutions into practical effect.

23. To consolidate and develop the Palestinian revolution's relations with the pan-Arab national liberation movement.

24. To struggle to open the Arab borders to Palestinian fedayeen action in the direction of the occupied Arab territory to resist Zionist occupation.

25. On the basis of the possibility of defeating the Zionist enemy, through a popular war of liberation, we call on the Lebanese patriotic forces to raise the pace of the armed struggle against it so that it can be turned into a popular war of liberation.

26. To (?strengthen) and develop the struggle against U.S. imperialism, international Zionism, and Arab reaction, and against attempts to impose U.S. domination on the region.

27. Maintaining and consolidating the Palestinian revolution's alliances with the Soviet Union, the socialist countries, and all the forces of liberation, progress, and democracy in the world.

28. Action for regrouping the forces of the Palestinian revolution, reorganizing, and strengthening them in Syria for the sake of continuing the armed struggle.

29. The participants in the meeting denounce all the contacts which took place and may take place with any Jewish, Zionist parties.

30. The participants in the meeting support the position of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, because it is an ally of Arab patriotic and progressive forces in their struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and Arab reaction.

[Signed] The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; PFLP General Command; PFLP; DPFLP; the Vanguards of the National Liberation War-As-Sa'iqah forces; the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front

Published in Tripoli, 16 January 1983

The final session of the Tripoli meeting this evening was attended by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud; Brigadier General 'Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the armed forces. Conference of the Palestinian resistance leaders began last Wednesday, 12 January, at Ash-Sha'b Hall in Tripoli, and the first session of the conference was attended by the brother leader of the revolution.

Faction Leaders' Statements

LD152050 Tripoli JANA in English 1857 GMT 15 Jan 83

["Statement by Leaders of Palestinian Resistance Factions" -- JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 1, Jan 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- Mr. Ahmad Jibril, the general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's General Command said that the current negotiations between the Lebanese authorities and the Zionist terrorists will be a new Camp David and added that should these negotiations be carried out in the light of the disgraceful conspiratorial silence of impotent Arab regimes, they will open a wider door in the face of those permanently seeking capitulation.

In a statement published by 'AL-JAMAHIRIYAH' newspaper yesterday, he said that the Arab masses are faced with a battle to reject these negotiations and all that is said about 'fait accompli' state of affairs.

On the current Arab situation, Mr Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic [Popular] Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the battle of Beirut and the invasion of Lebanon have revealed a number of realities, highlighted by the Arab reactionary collusion with the objectives of the U.S.-Zionist invasion aimed at liquidating the Palestinian revolution and weakening the Arab liberation movement so as to impose total U.S. hegemony over the Arab homeland.

In order to confront the imperialist-reactionary alliance, we call on the nationalist Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation to adopt a clear and firm policy against imperialism and the expansionist Zionist enemy, and to enter the sphere of strategic action as well as to formulate an integrated plan which will include tangible and practical aspects in order to confront the U.S.-Zionist-reactionary onslaught and begin the operation of changing the balance of power in the region, he added.

Mr. Samir Ghawshah, the secretary general of the Popular Front, said that the current state will all its challenges to the Arab nation and its real danger threatening all that is nationalist and progressive call for the mobilization of all the energies and capacities of the nationalist and progressive forces and the formulation of a programme of action which will involve most of the Arab masses and involve their capacities in the struggle.

He said that without the mobilisation and arming of the masses and widening the scale of political and military conflict against imperialists, Zionists and reactionaries, liberation and victory cannot be realised as national goals.

He stressed that the current period highlights several urgent and direct tasks, including confrontation of all capitalistionist plans and solutions (including the Camp David conspiracy, the Reagan plan, the so-called Arab peace plan, the confederal plan with Jordan), condemnation of all calls for recognising Israel, adhering to all Palestinian rights, escalating the Palestinian armed struggle and all other forms of struggle to confront the proponents of capitulation and Arab reaction and working for the hasty convening of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front conference so that the front may assume its practical and direct tasks of confronting the plans of the Camp David process.

On the other hand, the secretary general of the Lebanese Socialist Union Mr 'Abd ar-Rahim Murad said the current Arab situation can only be described as reticent in performing the simplest and most basic duties such as defending national borders and securing the nation's future. He said Lebanon's current negotiations with Israel are being carried out with the total approval and warm encouragement of all Arab rulers.

In another statement to the paper 'JAMAHIRIYAH', the leader of the Lebanese Communist Party, Mr. George Hawi, said the Lebanese National Movement will not lay down its arms as long as Israeli aggressors desecrate our lands, as long as one Palestinian revolutionary remains, and as long as one Arab country keeps struggling for the common goals of the Arab nation. Mr. Hawi lauded the steadfastness of the Great Al Fateh Revolution and its leadership, and said that some setbacks imposed by colonialism should not discourage Arab steadfastness.

AL-WAZIR DENIES FATAH COMMAND TRANSFER TO JORDAN

JN150733 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] In Amman Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Fatah's military commander, has granted an interview to AFP in which he spoke about the military situation of the Palestinian resistance and the various Palestinian political and military moves.

In this interview Abu Jihad denied that any decision had been made to transfer the headquarters of the Fatah movement military command to Jordan. He also denied that any agreement had been reached with King Husayn allowing Fatah to carry out military operations from Jordanian territories. He said that Israel is disseminating these reports to obstruct the settlement of Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Abu Jihad stressed that all the PLO's military organizations would soon be unified within the framework of one command. He pointed out that the Palestinian Military Council had formulated a new strategy to unify the Palestinian forces in Syria and Al-Biqa' and that a proposal for unifying all the PLO's military forces would be submitted to the Palestine National Council [PNC] for final approval in its forthcoming meeting.

Abu Jihad denied that some Palestinian fighters who had left Beirut for Syria had returned to Lebanon. He stressed that the Palestinian forces had contributed toward easing the situation in Tripoli and had mediated between the disputing sides with the agreement of all parties.

Commenting on Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Moscow, Abu Jihad said he believes that the USSR will continue to support the Palestinian people's national rights and the PLO's political moves in all fields.

On whether these political moves are taking place in coordination with Jordan, Abu Jihad said that the PLO is developing its political moves in cooperation with several Arab parties, including Jordan, within the framework of the international political dialogue based on the proposals submitted at the Fes summit.

On the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the expected peace talks, Abu Jihad explained that no decision had been made in this respect and that the nature of the PLO's action in the future would be decided at the forthcoming PNC meeting.

Abu Jihad denied that Yasir 'Arafat would visit Cairo. He said that Yasir 'Arafat has no intention at all to visit Cairo because no change in Egypt's policy has taken place to justify such a visit.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS PLO EXECUTIVE MEETING IN DAMASCUS

JN162015 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee met in Damascus this evening under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat. WAFA said that this meeting was devoted to preparing for the Palestine National Council meeting scheduled to be held in Algiers on 14 February. WAFA said that Yasir 'Arafat briefed the meeting on the talks he held in Moscow last week.

GCC OIL MINISTERS HOLD 'EMERGENCY' MEETING

UAE's Al-'Utaybah Previews Session

PM141719 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jan 82 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Gulf bureau report: "Gulf Oil Ministers To Meet Tomorrow; Al-'Utaybah To ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Reduction in Oil Prices"]

[Excerpts] The extraordinary meeting of the GCC oil ministers is to begin tomorrow, Saturday, and UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah has dismissed strong speculations in the oil quarters that the GCC member states intend to discuss the question of reducing the prices of their oil at this meeting. He asserted to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that this is out of the question. He defined the method of dealing with the present crisis in the oil market resulting from disagreement over the allocation of production quotas among OPEC countries as being "through limiting production within the new ceiling, which is 18.5 million barrels per day."

Western press reports have spoken about the possibility of the GCC states' reducing their oil prices as a means of forcing the OPEC hardline states to agree on production quotas.

Meanwhile, Dr al-'Utaybah denied that the Sultanate of Oman intends to reduce its oil price by $2 saying: "As far as I know the Sultanate of Oman does not intend to reduce its oil prices."

The UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources made this statement following a 1-day visit to the Sultanate. He expressed cautious optimism regarding the possibility of reaching agreement over production quotas. He said: "We should not despair of trying to reconcile OPEC countries with regard to agreement on quotas under the new ceiling."

He expressed his country's determination to defend the oil price at its present level, which is $34 per barrel.

Al-'Utaybah's visit to the Sultanate of Oman coincided with the talks Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani had in Kuwait on Tuesday, where preparations are underway for the meeting in Manama tomorrow.

Al-'Utaybah asserted that GCC oil ministers meetings do not discuss matters concerning OPEC but only exchange views and review developments that occur from time to time. But, he said, "there is no contradiction between GCC meetings and OPEC meetings; rather there is an organic link between the two."

On the other hand, well-informed oil sources told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that certain OPEC countries have actually begun implementing their threats to increase production, including Iran, whose production at the beginning of this month reached 3.1 million barrels per day, while Libyan oil production reached 1.8 million barrels per day. This is in addition to the fact that other OPEC countries have officially announced their intention to increase production, such as Venezuela, for example, which announced that its production will reach 2.1 million barrels per day, and Indonesia -- 1.5 million barrels per day.

These preliminary estimates of OPEC countries' production levels could once again upset the balance of the already glutted market. But Dr al-'Utaybah, who is also chairman of the committee concerned with following up developments on the oil market, said that "the OPEC countries collectively have not increased their production. OPEC countries' production is now less than what it was last December." He said that total OPEC production now does not exceed 18 million barrels per day, which is half a million barrels per day less than the ceiling, whereas last month it was about 19.5 million barrels per day.

Withdrawal Possibility Denied

LD150930 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0855 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Jan (SPA) -- Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Ahmad Zaki Yamani has denied the possibility of some Arabian Gulf countries withdrawing from international petroleum organizations. In a statement to AR-RIYAD published today he said that this subject has not been discussed. He added that the meeting of the oil ministers of the GCC member-states, which will begin its work in Manama today, was an ordinary meeting agreed upon at the previous meeting in Salalah, in the Sultanate of Oman, to discuss coordination and cooperation between the council member-states within the framework of joint Gulf cooperation and coordination. The petroleum and mineral affairs minister has also denied that this meeting is being held with the aim of discussing the reduction of current oil prices.

Consultations Held

JN142123 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2050 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 14 Jan (WAKH) -- Five oil ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council states held an informal meeting here tonight to prepare for their meeting which will begin tomorrow morning. Taking part in the meeting were Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki al-Yamani, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, UAE Oil Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, Bahraini Minister of Development and Industry Ahmad ash-Shirawi, and Omani Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Sa'id Ahmad ash-Shanfari.

The ministers held consultations on their oil relations and issues they will discuss in tomorrow's meeting.

Meeting Opens

GF151110 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, Bahraini development and industry minister and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs, opened the emergency meeting of the GCC permanent ministerial committee for petroleum cooperation.

At the beginning of the meeting, Ash-Shirawi reviewed the issues on the agenda. He pointed out that the GCC Secretariat prepared an agenda that includes five points dealing with cooperation among the GCC countries in the field of guaranteeing and ensuring gas for the installations of the GCC member countries, in addition to getting ports ready for receiving petroleum derivatives in the event of any interruption in normal supply routes.

The minister indicated the need to discuss important and priority issues without adhering to a set agenda in addition to the need to postpone discussion of other issues until the next meeting of the committee.

The meeting was then continued behind closed doors and was restricted to the heads of the delegations. The first working session of the meeting concluded at 1300, and the meeting will be resumed this afternoon.

The chairman of the meeting, Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, will hold press conference at 1700, during which he will talk about the resolutions and the recommendations reached by the GCC oil ministers meeting.

Conference Concludes

GF151608 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] The GCC petroleum ministers concluded their emergency conference of the petroleum cooperation committee at the Regency Hotel [in Manama] this evening. Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, minister of development and industry, acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs, and conference chairman, held a press conference that was attended by local and foreign correspondents, Arab and international news agencies, and GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, in which he reviewed the resolutions concluded by the conference during its meetings.

Statement on Meeting

GF151800 Manama Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Statement issued on emergency meeting of GCC petroleum ministers held in Manama on 15 January -- read by Bahraini Development and Industry Minister Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi at a press conference after the meeting]

[Text] First: The committee studied a report by one of the subcommittees on securing the supply of natural gas to consumption points in the GCC states. The report calls for linking the gas network with power stations in two divisions, northern and southern, provided that the two divisions will be linked through a continuous network in the future.

The second issue discussed by the committee was a report on the refining potential of the GCC states by the end of this decade. Due to the presence of a surplus in the quantity of refined oil, the council requested a study on the heavy part of a barrel -- that is, the fuel oils -- and whether they can be lightened, consumed, or converted into light oil products.

The third issue studied by the committee was finding petroleum products requried by industires in the GCC states. The committee concentrated on two main issues: The first is finding black carbon for tire manufacturing in the future, and prospects for obtaining it. There is a study on the types of crude oils suitable for this industry. The second is finding coal for the aluminium industry.

The meeting was short. The subcommittees and the General Secretariat prepared well for it. Hence, the reports were available beforehand and the members were able to study them and adopt resolutions on them.

This is what was achieved during this meeting. The committee will hold its fourth meeting in 3 or 4 months. It may be in April or May, pending notification from the secretary general.

No Decision on Pricing

GF160500 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 16 Jan 83 p 1

[Excerpt] No decision was taken on oil prices at yesterday's meeting of GCC oil ministers which closed unexpectedly last night.

The announcement came after two sessions attended by the six oil ministers plus GCC Secretary-General 'Abdallah Bisharah.

The meeting was held amid urgent Gulf demands to confront the deteriorating international oil market situation due to OPEC disagreements over members' quotas.

But at its close, Industry and Development Minister Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi said that, although the world oil situation had been reviewed, no pricing decisions had been taken.

Also in Bahrain during the GCC ministers' meeting were the oil ministers of Indonesia, Iraq, and Nigeria. Official sources had said earlier yesterday they would not be taking part in the GCC ministers' meeting.

Staying

And last night, Mr ash-Shirawi added: "I say categorically they were not invited." They had only come to Bahrain because of the presence of their OPEC colleagues, and they had been available for talks. The ministers' meeting had been scheduled to last two days, but last night, arrangements were being made for the Omani and Qatari delegations to fly home.

But the Saudi Arabian oil minister, Shaykh Zaki Yamani, said he would be staying in Bahrain "for the next two or three days" for further unofficial consultations with some OPEC ministers. There were no details on which ministers might be involved.

NIGERIAN PETROLEUM MINISTER ARRIVES IN MANAMA

GF160600 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1945 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 15 Jan (WAKH) -- Nigerian Petroleum Minister Yahya Dikko arrived in Manama tonight on a 2-day visit to Bahrain. The Nigerian minister will hold talks with the GCC oil ministers on matters dealing with OPEC affairs and current petroleum issues.

LIBYAN PETROLEUM SECRETARY ARRIVES IN BAHRAIN

GF160834 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0625 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 16 Jan (WAKH) -- Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur, Libyan petroleum secretary, arrived in Manama today on a 2-day visit to Bahrain. During the visit Al-Maqhur will hold consultations with a number of OPEC ministers on issues dealing with OPEC and the world's petroleum situation.

PETROLEUM MINISTERS HOLD SIDE MEETINGS IN MANAMA

GF161216 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 16 Jan (WAKH) -- The side meetings between the GCC petroleum ministers and their Iraqi, Libyan, and Nigerian counterparts began in Manama today. These meetings come within the framework of a series of meetings that are being held by the petroleum ministers in order to tackle the petroleum market crisis and exchange views on developments in the field of oil production in addition to agreeing to hold an extraordinary OPEC meeting in order to reach an agreement on the distribution of production shares among OPEC member countries.

OIL MINISTERS CALL FOR OPEC MEETING ON 23 JAN

GF161152 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 16 Jan (WAKH) -- Oil sources said in Manama today that the oil ministers of eight OPEC member countries held consultations in Bahrain yesterday and agreed to call for an extraordinary meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Council in Geneva on 23 January.

The oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar -- countries that are OPEC members -- have held side talks with the oil ministers of Iraq, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Libya who had arrived in Bahrain during the past 2 days for consultations in light of the developments that have followed the recent OPEC meeting that was held in Vienna.

The oil ministers held their consultations after a meeting on oil was held by the GCC countires in Manama yesterday.

Further Details

GF170500 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 17 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Eight OPEC ministers agreed in Bahrain yesterday to hold a crisis meeting of the organisation next Sunday to head off a possible oil price collapse.

Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Shaykh Yamani, said there was a good chance that the ministerial meeting in Geneva would agree to share out the dwindling oil market.

"There is a good chance really this time," he said. "We might be able to start to do it. We hope."

Discount

Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi said earlier yesterday that what he called the rule-abiding majority in OPEC might cut prices to restore flagging sales unless other members stopped breaching price and output accords.

However, the current OPEC president, Nigerian Oil Minister Mallam Yahya Dikko, said he believed Libya -- one of the countries reported to have been discounting to boost sales -- might fall into line. "I think they will be reasonable," he said.

Shaykh Yamani was asked what would happen if OPEC failed to agree on an output-sharing system.

He replied: "Oh my goodness. Why do we fail? We don't meet if we fail."

Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, Bahrain's minister of development and industry, said there was a possibility of the world might face a third oil shock in 1983, in the form of sharply-reduced oil prices. But he believed the present rift within OPEC had been "exaggerated." He said the organisation had weathered several internal disputes before.

Mr ash-Shirawi stressed that Gulf oil producers were beginning to seek formulas to develop their economies along non-petroleum lines.

OIL OFFICIALS MAKE STATEMENTS, DEPART MANAMA

Saudi, Kuwaiti Ministers

GF161858 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani and Kuwaiti Oil Affairs Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah left Manama today after participating in the meeting of the GCC oil ministerial committee and the consultations held by a number of the OPEC oil ministers in Manama yesterday and today.

On departure, the two ministers were seen off by Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, [Bahraini] minister of development and industry and minister of state for Cabinet affairs; and Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, Bahraini minister of finance and national economy. In a statement before departure, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said that the GCC oil ministerial committee's meeting was another tremendous step in the process of achieving the major objective which is the economic fusion of this group of countries, which share common history and traditions.

Regarding the consultations of the OPEC ministers, the Saudi minister expressed hope that the understanding reached will lead to further steps during the meeting to be held in Geneva to resolve the current crisis.

The Kuwaiti minister announced that the coming meeting, which will be held in Geneva on 23 January, will be a consultative one. Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah hailed the decisions and recommendations reached by the GCC oil ministers during their meeting in favor of the council's [GCC's] objectives, especially with regard to the joint projects in the oil spheres. Regarding the meeting of a number of the OPEC ministers, he said that the meeting was dedicated to the discussion and exchange of views on the issues which concern the organization [OPEC]. He expressed hope that the results of these meetings will be fruitful and in favor of the common interest.

Libyan, Nigerian Officials

GF170714 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0550 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 17 Jan (WAKH) -- Libyan Petroleum Secretary Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur and the Nigerian president's adviser for petroleum affairs Yahya Dikko left Manama today after taking part in the consultations that were held by the ministers of the OPEC member countries in Manama on the oil market situation.

The petroleum ministers of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Indonesia, in addition to Libya and Nigeria, agreed during their consultations to call for an emergency meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Council in Geneva on 23 January to discuss the issue of the distribution of production shares. Production was set at the Vienna conference held last month at 18.5 [million] barrels a day.

Iraqi Minister

GF161612 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Manama, 16 Jan (WAKH) -- Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi left Manama for home this evening after taking part in the oil consultations which were held here yesterday and today.

In a predeparture statement, the Iraqi oil minister called on the OPEC countries to muster efforts to reach an agreement that will preserve their interests and avoid great damage, which will probably be caused if they do not reach this agreement.

Taqi lauded the consultations he held with the GCC oil ministers and some oil ministers in the OPEC countries. These consultations were good, fruitful, and lucrative and they should continue until an agreement is reached that serves all in the current world oil market situation, he said.

UAE Minister

GF161238 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 16 Jan (WAKH) -- UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah left Manama today after having taken part in the emergency meeting of the GCC petroleum cooperation committee which concluded its meeting in Manama yesterday. He was seen off at the airport by Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, Bahraini minister of industry and development and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs; and Shaykh 'Isa ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah, under secretary of the Development and Industry Ministry.

In a statement in WAKH, Al-'Utaybah said that during the GCC summit conference that was held in Bahrain recently the kings and amirs decided to set up a committee of oil ministers to study the oil situation and coordinate oil affairs among the GCC countries.

Al-'Utaybah said that in view of the developments in the oil market it was decided to convene an emergency meeting in Bahrain. During the meeting the latest developments in the oil market with regard to production, supply and demand, and prices, and everything connnected with the oil market, were discussed.

The UAE minister of petroleum and mineral affairs said that the ministers saw that it is beneficial to exchange views in the hospitable atmosphere provided by the State of Bahrain and "to invite some of our colleagues in the UAE for consultations on these matters, particularly the question of production and the allocation of shares -- issues on which the OPEC conference in its recent meeting in Vienna in December could not reach agreement.

Al-'Utaybah said that current developments in the oil market make it necessary for us to make new efforts to reach an agreement on the allocation shares.

Qatari Minister

GF161842 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 16 Jan (WAKH) -- Qatari Minister of Finance and Petroleum Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani left Manama today after participating in the meeting of the GCC petroleum ministerial committee. He also took part in the unofficial meetings and consultations that took place among a number of OPEC oil ministers. He was seen off by Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, Bahraini minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs.

Upon his departure, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Thani expressed satisfaction at the results of the meeting and described them as good. He said that the petroleum situation is passing through a critical stage and that the resolutions that were adopted will serve the GCC countries as well as OPEC.

The Qatari finance and petroleum minister announced that as far as OPEC is concerned the results of these resolutions will appear in a couple of days.

BAHRAIN

SYRIA'S KHADDAM ARRIVES IN MANAMA ON 1-DAY VISIT

GF161450 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 16 Jan (WAKH) -- 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, arrived in Manama from Riyadh this afternoon on a 1-day visit to the State of Bahrain.

During his visit, Khaddam will deliver a message to His Highness the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was received on arrival by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

Delivers Al-Asad Message

GF170805 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 17 Jan (WAKH) -- Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a written message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the current situation on the Arab arena and the dimensions of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The message was conveyed by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, during a meeting with the amir of Bahrain today.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

KUWAIT

CHIEF OF STAFF DENIES PURCHASE OF FRENCH MIRAGES

LD161216 Kuwait KUNA in English 1116 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 16 (KUNA) -- The Kuwaiti chief of General Staff, Major General 'Abdallah Farraj al-Ghanim, Sunday denied reports that Kuwait has concluded a deal for the purchase of French-made Mirage 2000 fighter planes.

In an exclusive interview with KUNA, Al-Ghanim said although Kuwait is capable of acquiring the Mirage 2000 he felt the country was not in need of them at present.

Kuwait has instead concluded a deal with France for the purchase of 12 of the new F-1 Mirages which France modernized into long-range fighter-bombers and radar rocket-propellers, he said.

The sophisticated F-1 Mirage, of which the Kuwaiti Air Force possesses a number, is also a manouvering fighter, the chief of General Staff stressed.

The Kuwait Army is bent on modernizing its arsenals in a manner that suits the present and future needs of the country, he said, adding that Kuwait is currently engaged in the purchase of airborne troop carriers capable of lift off with 20 minutes warning.

The [word indistinct] system is being introduced in the infantry divisions of the Kuwaiti Army to facilitate its quick deployment.

Speaking about conscription, Major General al-Ghanim said the Army has benefitted greatly from conscription by convering the shortage in manpower and filling in the gaps in various specialities.

Elaborating on this point, Al-Ghanim said the Army groups 35 different specialities that demand highly qualified technicians, fighters, officers and administrators. Conscription has enabled the army to formulate three categories or reservists, grouping the officers and men who recently completed their military service, the others who finished with their military duties a long time ago and the third group covering the general reserves, he said.

Major General al-Ghanim added, however, that judging by the Army's previous experience in this field, "we believe the period the reservist spends in the various army units is not adequate and we will be forced to ask for its prolongation in the future." The Army commands are engaged in a series of exercises in rotation in order to put theory to practise, he said, adding that one of these commands all undertake military exercises on February 22 to mark the National Day celebrations of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti chief of General Staff concluded his statement to KUNA by an appeal to Kuwaiti citizens to enlist in the various Army commands and different specialities and branches.

SAUDI ARABIA

SYRIA'S KHADDAM STOPS OVER IN RIYADH 16 JAN

LD160928 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0850 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Jan (SPA) -- Syrian Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Riyadh this morning on a visit to the Kingdom.

It was announced last night in Damascus that Khaddam will embark on a tour of several countries of the area which will take him to the Kingdom, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE, during which he will deliver messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to the leaders of these countries pertaining to the current Arab situation.

Meets With Fahd

LD160942 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0856 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh 16 Jan (SPA) -- At 1130 this morning His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who conveyed to his majesty a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The meeting was attended by the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Report on Departure

GF161420 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Riyadh this afternoon after a short visit to the Kingdom that lasted for a few hours, during which he conveyed a message to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was seen off at the airport by the director general of the Foreign Ministry office in Riyadh.

JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN ARRIVES IN RIYADH ON VISIT

LD161104 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1040 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Jan (SPA) -- The Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, arrived in Riyadh this afternoon on a 2-day visit to the Kingdom. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz was leading those who welcomed his majesty on his arrival at Riyadh airport.

Talks With Fahd Begin

JN162100 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Official talks began in Riyadh this evening between the Jordanian side under His Majesty King Husayn and the Saudi side under His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad al-Lawzi, Court Minister 'Amir Khammash, and Army Commander in Chief Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayid ibn Shakir. On the Saudi side, the talks were attended by Governor of Riyadh Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, and several senior Saudi officials.

His Majesty King Husayn and his delegation had arrived in Riyadh this afternoon from Baghdad. He was received at Riyadh airport by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Governor of Riyadh Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, a number of princes, several senior Army and civilian officials, the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi ambassador in Amman.

His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad al-Lawzi, Court Minister 'Amar Khammash, and Army Commander in Chief Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir.

Further on Talks

JN162125 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Riyadh -- Their Majesties King Husayn and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz presided over the Jordanian-Saudi talks held in An-Nasiriyah Palace tonight.

The two monarchs later held an expanded bilateral meeting during which they discussed all aspects of the Arab situation and Arab action in the international arena represented by the seven-member Arab committee's visit to the states which are permanent members in the UN Security Council. They also reviewed Arab and international efforts to find a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue, which is the core of the Middle East crisis.

His Majesty King Husayn briefed His Majesty King Fahd on the outcome of his international contacts and his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The two sides stressed the need for beefing up Arab action in the international arena to realize the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and terminate the Israeli occcupation of all the Arab territories, foremost being Jerusalem. They also discussed the close fraternal relations between the two countries and means to strengthen their joint coordination and cooperation.

PDRY

FOREIGN MINISTER AD-DALI IN CUBA FOR TALKS

For Havana coverage of the visit to Cuba by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz ad-Dali, see the Cuba section of the 17 January Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

YASIR 'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD 15 JAN

JN151119 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived on a surprise visit to Baghdad from Moscow at dawn yesterday, met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this morning and discussed Iraqi-PLO relations and the current Arab situation. He also briefed the Iraqi president on the results of his recent visit to the USSR.

Arab sources in Baghdad have mentioned that Jordanian King Husayn will arrive in Baghdad this afternoon.

In addition, 'Arafat received a special envoy from Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, who delivered a message dealing with the current political situation in the region in preparation for Kreisky's forthcoming visit to Washington.

Meets Kreisky's Envoy

JN141646 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, met in Baghdad today with Mr (Amery), the envoy of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. Mr (Amery) delivered to Brother Abu 'Ammar a letter from Chancellor Kreisky and discussed a number of current issues with him.

Brother Abu 'Ammar arrived in Baghdad at dawn this morning from Moscow on a visit to Iraq. He was met at the airport by Na'im Haddad, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly; the chief and members of the Freedom Movements Bureau; the chief of protocol at the Iraq Foreign Ministry; the PLO representative in Baghdad; and a number of Palestinian Revolution cadres. INA said that brother Abu 'Ammar will hold talks with a number of Iraqi officials on Iraqi-PLO relations and the latest developments in the Palestinian cause.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN151140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn today received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Discussion during the meeting dealt with the Palestinian issue in particular and the Arab and international situation in general.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and deputy prime minister, and Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, head of the president's office and RCC acting secretary.

'Arafat arrived here from Moscow yesterday.

Confers With Ba'th Party Leader

JN151600 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA) -- Michel 'Aflaq, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the occasion of the latter's visit to Iraq. The two sides reviewed the current Arab and international situation in general and the Palestinian issue in particular.

Ends 2-Day Visit

JN151844 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1832 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad tonight at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq during which he held talks with President Saddam Husayn on Arab and international developments in general and the Palestinian issue in particular.

KING HUSAYN ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT 15 JAN

JN151633 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA) -- Jordan's King Husayn arrived here this evening on an official visit to Iraq. He was accorded an official reception at Baghdad airport and was welcomed by President Saddam Husayn; Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and vice president; Na'im Haddad, speaker of the National Assembly; and Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister.

The king is accompanied by a delegation consisting of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad al-Lawzi, Court Minister 'Amir Khammash, and army commander in chief Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayid ibn Shakir.

Iraqi-Jordanian Talks Begin

JN152056 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA) -- Official talks between Iraq and Jordan began here this evening under the chairmanship of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Jordanian King Husayn.

President Saddam Husayn reviewed the military situation at the battlefront in facing the Iranian regime's aggression. He stressed Iraq's solid military position and the determination of both the Iraqi people and army to repulse the enemy and destroy its attempts against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The Jordanian monarch stressed Jordan's firm support for Iraq against the Iranian aggression which constitutes a large danger to the Arab nation, a matter which requires a comprehensive Arab backing of steadfast Iraq with all available means and capabilities.

The Jordanian monarch reviewed Jordan's political activities and the visits the seven-member committee, which was formed by the Fes summit, paid to some UN Security Council member states with the aim of explaining the Arab position so further support can be won for the rights of both the Arab nation and the Palestinian people.

During the talks, which were held in a fraternal atmosphere stressing the nature of the strong and comprehensive ties linking them, the two sides also discussed bilateral relations.

Talks Conclude

JN160756 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Official talks between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn were concluded in Baghdad last night in the presence of the members of the two delegations. During the talks, which lasted for 3 hours, the two sides analyzed Arab and international developments and their impact on events in the region.

They also assessed the joint Arab action since the Arab Fes summit conference.

King Husayn reviewed the outcome of the Arab moves on the international level and his talks with President Ronald Reagan. His majesty outlined his concepts of the coming stage of Arab coordination and cooperation in order to bring about a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the Middle East.

President Saddam Husayn reviewed the military situation on the Iraqi front and its multifaceted developments. King Husayn praised fraternal Iraq's steadfastness and its pan-Arab stand in the face of Iranian aggression, as well as its defense of the Arab nation's integrity. His majesty reiterated Jordan's support for Iraq in its just war.

King Husayn Departs 16 Jan

JN151014 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA) -- Jordanian King Husayn ibn Talal left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 1-day visit to Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn was at the head of those who saw King Husayn off at Baghdad International Airport. Also present were Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; and Na'im Haddad, speaker of the National Assembly.

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD 14 JAN

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN142040 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn this evening received Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, first deputy prime minister and commander of the Saudi National Guard. During the meeting, which was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, the two sides discussed the friendly relations between the two fraternal countries and the Arab situation in general.

The meeting was also attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; 'Abd al-Mun'im Khalid Rashid, head of the presidential office and RCC acting secretary general; and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad.

Departs Baghdad 15 Jan

JN151137 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA) -- Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, first deputy prime minister and commander of the Saudi National Guard, left Baghdad today following a brief visit. Yesterday evening, President Saddam Husayn received Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and discussed with him the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and the Arab situation in general.

He was seen off at the airport by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman; Sa'dun Shakir, Revolution Command Council member and foreign minister; and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad.

IRAN'S RAJAVI OUTLINES MEETING WITH 'AZIZ

JN162042 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Iranian opposition organization Mojahedin-e Khalq and chairman of the National Resistance Council in Iran, has stated that his meeting with Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, constitutes a crucial turning point in the history of the Iraqi-Iranian relations. Rajavi added that the meeting which took place on 9 January and the joint statement that was released immediately afterward, presents a decisive political transformation in the history of the war raging between the two neighboring countries.

In his press statement to Arab journalists in his place of residence in Paris last night, Rajavi affirmed that the joint statement that followed his meeting with Tariq 'Aziz will act as a prelude for upsetting the balance of power that has been created by Khomeyni's policy of aggression. He added that this statement is bound to speed up the end of Khomeyni and pave the way for peace and freedom in Tehran.

Rajavi affirmed that the Iranian people's response to the statement was completely positive, basing this on reports he had received from his organization operating inside Iran. He said: The reports confirm that our people received the statement that was issued on my meeting and talks with Tariq 'Aziz with a wave of delight, optimism, and enthusiasm. He added that this reaction was something axiomatic because the Iranian people love freedom and peace and hate Khomeyni's regime and bloody clique.

Asked about the results that might emerge in Iran with regard to the joint statement, Rajavi said: I sincerely believe this will exacerbate internal disputes between the so-called imam's line and that of the opposition forces, and will specifically deepen contradictions between Khomeyni and the army. He added that the statement had clearly condemned Khomeyni in his capacity as a warmonger in the region. He said his organization, which has been waging the struggle over the past 18 years for the sake of freedom and independence, can also concert its efforts for the sake of peace and conciliation.

Rajavi added that this is the right of the Iranian people to exploit this initiative, affirming that history will prove that we were right. He pointed out that the war, which Khomeyni launched against Iraq, has so far left some 300,000 dead, 500,000 wounded, and handicapped, and well over 2 million refugees. He added that the war cost Iran some $200 million, a figure that exceeds 10-year oil revenues.

Rajavi said: The overwhelming majority of our people want peace, adding: We were confident, when we embarked upon this initiative, that it would meet the aspirations of our people and would encourage the patriotic elements in the army to rise against Khomeyni because he is responsible for this futile war.

Rajavi affirmed that the joint statement has created a continuous peaceful link between the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and for future generations. He explained that Khomeyni's insistence on continuing the war despite the chances made available to solve the dispute peacefully is because he seeks to expand at the expense of Iraq and the region's states.

IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES REPORTED 14-17 JAN

Communique No 965

JN141724 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Communique No 965 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 January 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the evil Khomeyniite clique. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units shelled an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central operational sector, killing five and destroying one vehicle and killing its occupants.

2. Four were killed, and one vehicle, on which a 106-mm gun was mounted, and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the Maysan operational sector.

3. At 1615 today, our air defenses shot down an enemy helicopter in the Ash-Shib region in the southern operational sector. Our forward positions saw the plane falling ablaze on the enemy territory.

4. Using artillery, the aggressor Iranian regime today shelled Mandali, damaging some civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 January

Communique No 966

JN151652 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA) -- During their activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today, the Iraqi Armed Forces captured 5 Iranian troops, killed 24 others, and destroyed 1 vehicle, 1 observation post, and 1 hardware stockpile. The Iraqi forces also wounded a number of the enemy and took some weapons and various other equipment. This was stated in Communique No 966, issued here tonight by the Armed Forces General Command. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 966 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With men full of courage, sacrifice, and audacity, our valiant army is continuing its legitimate defense and brave activities against the forces of the spiteful Khomeyniite enemy in the operational sectors. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A force belonging to one of our forward units confronted and pounded an enemy patrol which tried to approach our forward positions in the Maysan sector, killing five, capturing another five, and seizing some weapons and various other equipment. The enemy also sustained 18 killed and 1 observation post destroyed opposite the positions of our other units in the same sector.

2. One vehicle and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the area east of Basra.

3. One was killed and several others were wounded in the northern sector of the battlefield.

4. Today the vile Iranian regime intermittently shelled with artillery the cities of Basra and Mandali, causing some damage to some civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 January 1983

Communique No 967

JN161730 Baghdad Domestis Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Communique No 967 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 January 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The brave soldiers of Iraq and the Arab nation continued their daring activities in the operational sectors against the troops of the Khoemyniite clique which is wallowing in the quagmire of evil and aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows.

1. Our daring air force fighter planes attacked all day today enemy troop concentrations, positions, and vehicles in the areas opposite our units in the Maysan operational sectors, as well as military targets deep inside enemy territory. Our bold eagles succeeded in scoring direct hits and in inflicting grave losses in life and equipment. All of our planes, praise be to God, returned safely to their base after discharging 66 combat missions today.

2. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central operational sector, killing nine and destroying one observation post.

3. Five were killed in the Maysan operational sector.

4. Using artillery, the spiteful Iranian regime today shelled Mandali, damaging a number of houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 January 1983

IRANIAN REPORT ON DOWNING THREE JETS DENIED

JN171142 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA) -- An Iraqi military spokesman has refuted Iranian claims on downing three Iraqi fighter planes. In a statement to INA today, the spokesman said that the Iraqi fighter planes carried out 66 combat missions yesterday and returned safely to base after inflicting massive losses in men and equipment on the Iranian forces. He called on the Iranian regime to provide evidence of the claims that were broadcast by Tehran radio in Persian at noon today.

KING HUSAYN RECEIVES LEBANON'S JUNBLATT

JN152014 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] It has been learned from an informed source in Amman that Jordan's King Husayn this morning received Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, and reviewed with him the situation in Lebanon and the latest developments of the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations.

LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION LEAVES 14 JAN

JN142126 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Excerpt] The Lebanese parliamentary delegation, led by Dr Amin Hafiz, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, left Amman this evening at the end of a short visit to Jordan, during which the head of the delegation conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. The message dealt with the current state of affairs in Lebanon and the progress of negotiations on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

HUSAYN TO VISIT IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA, GULF

LD151144 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Amman, 15 Jan (KUNA) -- Informed official sources disclosed here today that King Husayn of Jordan will this afternoon embark on a wide scale tour which will take him to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and some countries of the Arab Gulf. In a statement to KUNA, the sources said that "King Husayn will acquaint leaders of the fraternal countries he will be visiting with the results of his recent talks on peace in the Middle East with Soviet leaders, PRC leaders, U.S. President Ronald Reagan and other senior American officials as well as give them a comprehensive evaluation of these results within the framework of attitudes depicted by the leaders of the big powers toward the proposals contained in the unified Arab peace plan of the Fes conference."

In December, King Husayn visited the USSR and PRC as head of the Arab seven-member committee of the Fes summit conference. He then visited the United States within the framework of Arab contacts with the permanent member countries of the UN Security Council.

The sources pointed out that the king will begin his tour with a visit to Iraq, followed by Saudi Arabia and then the other Arab Gulf countries. The sources did not specify the countries of the Gulf he will be visiting.

Leaves of Baghdad 15 Jan

JN151418 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to Iraq during which he will hold talks with President Saddam Husayn and ranking Iraqi officials on the Arab situation and the efforts being exerted to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

His majesty is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Cabinet Ahmad al-Lawzi, Court Minister 'Amir Khammash and Army Commander of Chief Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir.

The king was seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the National Consultative Council, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the ministers, ranking civilian and military officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath as regent in front of His Majesty King Husayn and Cabinet members.

PRESS ON HUSAYN, 'ARAFAT VISITS TO BAGHDAD

JN160825 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Jan 83

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpts] The Jordanian papers this morning comment on the meeting in Baghdad between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Saddam Husayn, which came in accordance with the pan-Arab commitment to rescue the land and the people in occupied Palestine and further reiterated Jordan's eagerness to consult with its brothers.

Under the headline "Talks Between Husayn and Saddam," AR-RA'Y says: Out of the pan-Arab commitment to rescue the land and the people in the occupied territories, His Majesty King Husayn is visiting fraternal Iraq for talks with President Saddam Husayn dealing with the current Arab state of affairs and the efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region. There is no doubt that Iraq, which has always participated in the nation's battles and is still fighting the battle in defense of the Arab nation, is the first to realize the importance of rescuing the Palestinian land and people before Israel devours all this land and prevents the Palestinians from enjoying the warmth of their homeland. It is natural under the current critical circumstances of the Palestinian cause that the parties associated with this cause brief fraternal Iraq on all the developments, concepts, and expectations related to it. Hence came King Husayn's visit to Baghdad which began yesterday and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Iraq on Friday.

Concluding, AR-RA'Y says: Iraq, which has always translated its pan-Arab commitment into practice regardless of the cost, will always remain the Arab nation's secure depth and the power capable of backing the nation under all circumstances, including the current stage of rescuing the Palestinian land and people.

Commenting on the same subject under the headline "King Husayn in Baghdad", AD-DUSTUR says: King Husayn's visit to fraternal Iraq which began yesterday was not surprising. During his meeting with the representatives of the official political popular and trade unions sectors a few days ago, his majesty announced that he would visit Iraq. The king also underlined the concern of Jordan, as well as his own, to stop the Iranian aggression against fraternal Iraq. This aggression has prevented Iraq from efficiently participating in pan-Arab action that could have changed developments during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon as well as all the attempts of the aggressive Israelis to force their own ideas not only on Lebanon, but on the entire Arab nation as well. The consultations between the political leaderships of Iraq and Jordan are very significant and necessary. In this critical situation and under these circumstances of the nation's most important cause and at a time when many resources of our nation are paralyzed, Jordan, represented by His Majesty King Husayn, feels that it is its duty to contact the brothers and coordinate with them regarding the events now being imposed on the Arab nation, particularly since these events will certainly influence the future and future generations. AD-DUSTUR says: The release of the Iraqi resources now engaged in the Iranian aggression will certainly have a decisive role, despite the recent developments of the Arab-Israeli crisis and the unprecedented deterioration of inter-Arab relations. We say this because we feel that many of the nation's causes are at a crossroad and Arab decisions will influence their future as well as their present.

FURTHER ON LEBANESE-ISRAELI-AMERICAN TALKS

Negotiations Committees Formed

NC141624 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon radio political correspondent has said that agreement was reached at Qiryat Shemona yesterday on dividing the negotiations among five committees. They are 1) The committee on ending the state of war. 2) The security arrangements committee. 3) The mutual relations committee. 4) The guarantees committee. 5) The committee on possible guarantees. [Lajnat ad-Damanat al-Muhtamalah].

The basic aim of the formation of these committees is that the discussion topics will be studied simultaneously. This means that in the event one of the committees completes its studies and reaches a certain agreement, then this will undoubtedly give impetus and have a positive impact on the work of the committee or the other committee. In the event a difference exists, then this will be confined within the framework of a certain committee without having a negative impact on the comprehensive framework of the negotiations. [passage indistinct]

Consultations Precede New Talks

NC170832 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Information Ministry delegation covering the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah -- in Arabic, English, and French -- processed from Arabic]

[Text] The Information Ministry delegation greets you from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah where the seventh round of the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations will be held.

The three committee arrived at the hotel at 0730 today. It is noted that two Lebanese members have been added to the Lebanese committee to the negotiations. They are ambassadors Hani al-Amin and Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan.

Immediately upon the arrival of the three committees at the hotel, bipartite and tripartite consultations began preparatory to the holding of the seventh round of the negotiations. These consultations will continue a considerable time before the convocation of the closed seventh session and the study of the agenda. We will provide you with all developments in the negotiations.

Seventh Round Begins

NC170821 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Information Ministry delegation covering the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah -- in Arabic, English and French -- processed from English]

[Text] Good morning. This is the official Lebanese delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Khaldah. Will the seventh round of talks between Lebanon, Israel, and the Americans be labeled as the first serious round expected to materialize after the close negotiations held by U.S. envoy Philip Habib in Tel Aviv and the news about the possible first Israeli withdrawal in the first half of February?

In any case, talks are now taking two parallel channels. On one hand, U.S. chief negotiator Habib is holding meetings with committees formed by Israeli Premier Begin to implement what the Khaldah Qiryat Shemona talks between the Lebanese and Israelis lead to and the Lebanese delegation is also expected today to present a global plan for agenda of withdrawal of all foreign forces from country. To note here that our ambassador in Mexico Hani al-Amin has been officially chosen to participate in any meetings of the delegations held either in Khaldah or Qiryat Shemona.

Photographers, Newsmen Allowed

NC170852 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0828 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Information Ministry delegation covering the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah -- in Arabic, French and English -- processed from English]

[Text] This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Qiryat Shemona [as heard]. At 1015 a.m., the photographers and pressmen were allowed in the hall before the official opening of the seventh round of talks between the three delegations. Of course, no declaration was given by any of the official delegates. All that the reporters could see was the delegations sitting and chatting together. Some of them were even smiling for the camera but refused to give any statements.

Ambassador al-Amin said concerning his nomination that he got here only yesterday to take part in the different meetings. He declined to disclose anything concerning those meetings. The question of the formation of the subcommittees, which are expected to discuss a possible general withdrawal of all foreign forces from our country, will be discussed today.

This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting, and with you all day long in Khaldah to give you the latest or anything that may come up at any time.

VOL Reports on Khaldah

NC170927 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0910 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Dear listeners, we will now move to Khaldah to be with the Voice of Lebanon radio team there which will give us the latest developments of the negotiations. [Begin telephone recording] The Voice of Lebanon radio team is speaking to you from Khaldah where the seventh round of the negotiations began a short while ago. The Voice of Lebanon radio asked a member of the Lebanese delegation about the aim of today's negotiations and the course the meeting will take. He explained that the discussion will deal with distributing the negotiations to specific committees according to the composite agenda.

It is known that Lebanon has formed three committees. These are: 1) The committee for ending the state of war led by Dr Antoine Fattal. 2) The withdrawals committee led by Staff Brigadier General 'Abbas Hamdan. 3) Mutual relations committee led by Ambassador Ibrahim Kharma.

Lebanon's main goal of this distribution is to speed up the negotiating process so that differences over a specific point would not lead to freezing or delaying progress in the negotiations.

The delegations meeting now are discussing the composite agenda approved in Qiryat Shemona on the specific points leaving details to the subcommittees. Discussions of these points are expected to take a long time beceause they will to a large extent set the features for the coming phase. [end recording]

War's End, Security Discussed

NC171019 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0958 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Information Ministry delegation covering the Lebanese-Israel-American negotiations at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah -- in Arabic, French and English -- processed from English]

[Text] This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information still with you reporting from Khaldah.

At exactly 1145 the official spokesman for the Israeli delegation Mr Avi Pazner appeared before the press and declared that the delegations had been discussing two main points: termination of the state of war and security arrangements. To remind you that these two main points appeared as first and second item on the agreed agenda of last week's discussions in Qiryat Shemona.

Mr Pazner then denied certain reports which appeared in the local press speaking about a possible tacit agreement between Israel and Syria to stay permanently in Lebanon. The Israeli spokesman went on to say that the main objective of Israel was to see a Lebanon, sovereign and independent over all its territory, and called the press reports as unfounded and false. This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information from Khaldah.

Subcommittee Set Up

TA171130 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Excerpt] At the end of the talks in Khaldah, a first subcommittee was established to discuss the end to the state of war. The members of the committee are Eli Rubinstein, the legal adviser to the Israeli delegation; Antoine Fattal, the head of the Lebanese delegation; and the deputy head of the U.S. delegation.

Minicommittee Meeting

NC171124 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1103 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Information Ministry delegation covering the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah -- in Arabic, French, and English -- processed from English]

[Text] This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Khaldah:

At exactly 1240 p.m., the first morning meeting ended and at 1250 the official Lebanese spokesman, Major Tarabay, announced the following:

The delegations carried on the discussions, touching on general ideas relevant to the agenda for talks. And now a restricted committee is now meeting headed by Dr Fattal, representing the Lebanese side, Dr Rubinstein, the Israeli side, and Christopher Ross, the American side, to study the item of the termination of the state of war between the two countries.

This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information from Khaldah.

Pullback To Be Proposed

NC170836 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jan 83

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-ANWAR features the following prominent headlines: During the seventh round of the negotiations in Khaldah, Lebanon will today propose an Israeli pullback to a distance of 15 km south of Beirut, and, U.S. envoy Habib asks Israel to reach an agreement on the forces' withdrawal within 1 week.

In its corner "Lights on the News," AL-ANWAR ponders the reaction to Lebanon's stand on the current negotiations between it and Israel with effective U.S. participation. It stresses that the U.S. stand is clear and it will remain clear to everybody -- the need to restore its land and its full sovereignty on this land. Lebanon rejects any interference in its domestic affairs and it rejects any lessons in patriotism. Its previous stands cannot be in doubt. It will proceed with its plan regardless of the price and the campaigns because history alone will testify who is leading the procession in the right national manner.

AN-NAHAR expects Lebanon to submit a withdrawal plan and couple it with a request for guarantees and international forces. It says that Philip Habib calls for full agreement within days.

In a news analysis, AN-NAHAR stresses that Lebanon is the one to decide what forces are to be withdrawn and when. Nobody else can decide on its behalf the fate of any force on its territory.

AN-NAHAR goes on: The government has laid two principles for the negotiations with Israel and there can be no departure from them. The first principle provides for rejecting every Israeli demand [talab] which would negatively affect national unity at home. The second principle provides for rejecting every demand which would negatively affect Lebanon's relations with the Arab world or isolate it from its environment.

Source Predicts Long Talks

NC141804 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] A prominent government source today warned against the overoptimism which has prevailed in various quarters since the reaching of an agreement on the agenda for the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations. He said that the negotiations will be arduous and long and will require extraordinary efforts by the officials and all the Lebanese so as to complete them in Lebanon's interest.

The source contended that what was achieved in Qiryat Shemona yesterday was the result of a brilliant maneuver by the Lebanese delegation, which achieved the agreement on the agenda without being committed to the topics on it. Israel submitted many matters, but Lebanon did not commit itself to any of them, with the exception of the complete withdrawal. This means that Israel did not get anything on the practical level.

The source said that the Lebanese visualization of all the topics on the agenda is clear and is principally based on adherance to the armistice agreement -- an article of which stipulates the possibility of amending the agreement except for the first and third articles, related to the topic of ending the state of war.

Regarding the security arrangements which Israel is demanding in return for withdrawing, Lebanon will in return also demand other security arrangements while confirming its maintenance of full sovereignty over all its territories.

INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES HEAD INTERVIEWED

NC141846 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 10-16 Jan 83 pp 34-43

[By Lydia Georgi]

[Excerpt] Lebanon's new police chief, Hisham ash-Sha'ar, said last week that the only way to bring peace back to Tripoli was to get a Syrian go-ahead for the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the north Lebanese city.

In his first private interview since his appointment on December 8, the director-general of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) told MONDAY MORNING: "In my personal opinion, and in my opinion as the man in charge of the Security Forces, only the army can disarm Tripoli. But let's be frank: There are Syrian forces in Tripoli, and if the army enters Tripoli without the approval of the Syrians, there will be a clash between the two armies.... The Syrians must approve the entry of the Lebanese Army into Tripoli to disarm all parties on the ground.... Without the army, we can do nothing in Tripoli, and without Syrian approval, the army cannot go to Tripoli -- there would be a battle between the two armies."

And a battle between the Syrian and Lebanese armies in Tripoli, he added, "would be a disaster -- especially since the capabilities of the Lebanese Army are not like the capabilities of the Syrian Army."

Ash-Sha'ar said there would be no peace in Tripoli, the Ash-Shuf district or any other part of Lebanon unless all foreign forces withdrew and were replaced by the Lebanese Army and the multinational peace-keeping force.

Accusing Israel of being behind the Maronite-Druze violence in 'Alayh and the Ash-Shuf district of the central Lebanese mountains, Ash-Sha'ar said: "Since there are foreign forces in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh, why don't they maintain the peace? The fact that they don't proves that they want to widen the rift between the parties on the ground."

Far from trying to keep the peace, the Israelis were preventing the ISF from doing its job, he said. The Israeli forces have not only occupied some police stations but have also disarmed the ISF elements."

But then, the Lebanese Security Forces' work was being hampered in every other part of Lebanon where the central government was not in control, he added.

"Wherever there is armed presence, the ISF cannot do its duty as it should, because the armed men are protected by aliens," Ash-Sha'ar said. The police "are doing their duty in Tripoli and in the south, but in both places they can't do their duty as they should."

They are not even being allowed to do their job properly in East Beirut, where the "Lebanese Forces" militia is still armed and in control, he said. The militias "are not allowing the Security Forces to do their duty as it should be done. For instance, imagine an ISF officer seeing armed men in front of him and finding himself unable to take their weapons away.... We can't order the policeman to take those arms away, because the armed man has people to protect him."

The Security forces, Ash-Sha'ar said, were applying the law more in West Beirut, where all militias had been disarmed and no foreign forces were left.

The ISF, he added, was demanding that what was done in West Beirut be done in East Beirut. "We demand it," he said, "but it is a political decision that must be taken by the government, not by us." Asked why he thought the decision had not been taken yet, he said: "Ask the political officials. I am a security official."

Another problem facing the Security Forces, Ash-Sha'ar said, was its inability to recruit enough men.

The 7,000 policemen and gendarmes now in the ISF were obviously not enough to cover the entire country. Twenty thousand men were needed, but the ISF was finding difficulty getting that many because of sectarian considerations.

In its recruitment drives, Ash-Sha'ar explained, the ISF had to maintain a sectarian balance: for every Moslem who enlisted, a Christian must enlist.

The problem was that most of those who applied for ISF service were Shi'tes. Few Beiruti Sunnites were applying, and even fewer Christians.

The result was that the ISF was unable to bring in more than 200-300 men in each recruitment drive, and these were usually matched by almost as many ISF men who wanted to leave the service, "so we're unable to increase the number."

The army, he said, was having the same problem. "They're recruiting half this (Christian) and half that (Moslem), and the army is not getting stronger."

The only solution for this problem for both the army and the ISF was to start compulsory military service, Ash-Sha'ar said, adding that the Lebanese authorities intended to apply compulsory service within the next six months.

Some of the conscripts, he said, would serve in the ISF for one or two years, which would make it possible to reach the target of a 20,000-man ISF in two to three years.

The recruitment problem might also be eased "to a certain extent" if all Lebanese militias were disbanded, Ash-Sha'ar said. Former militiamen could enlist in the ISF, although they would have to be rigorously re-trained and "brainwashed... so that their allegiance will be to this corps and to no one else."

Ash-Sha'ar said that a 20,000-man ISF would be able to take over some quasi-military duties from the army, since it would have a 5,000-man "strike force" capable of taking on armed groups and undertaking "difficult police missions."

He revealed that the ISF had already started training a special anti-terrorist squad: Officers had been sent to France for anti-terrorist training, and an initial group of 200 ISF men were undergoing anti-terrorist training here.

Ash-Sah'ar, 56, a Sunnite Moslem from Beirut, holds a law degree and has served as director general of the ISF before (1971-77). He headed the central inspection agency from 1977 until he was reappointed ISF director-general in December 1982.

NEW TERRORIST GROUP REPORTED IN WEST BEIRUT

NC161112 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned from informed security sources in Beirut that there is a new terrorist organization which has carried out operations in West Beirut.

The operations concentrated on liquor shops and night clubs. This organization calls itself: Terrorist Operations and Islamic Revolutionary Action Organization, Forces of Martyr Imam Nasir as-Sadr, the Central Council [Munazzamat al-'Amaliyat al-Irhabiyah al-Imam Baqir as-Sadr, al-Qiyadah al-Markaziyah Fi Lubnan] The security sources said that the appropriate authorities are actively working to find the leaders and cadres of this organization that exists in Beirut.

VOICE OF LEBANON CRITICIZES SYRIA'S POSITION

NC161343 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Political and diplomatic circles were surprised today over what the official information media in Syria have said regarding the current negotiations on the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon, particularly as the Syrian comments came at a time when the Lebanese president's envoy was meeting with the Syrian president in the presence of his foreign minister.

The political and diplomatic circles censored the Syrian stands, saying that they are still based on the policy of outbiddings, which became known a long time ago particularly vis-a-vis the issues and affairs connected with the Arab questions in general and Lebanese questions in particular.

The Syrian official media's concentration on the eagerness, as they claim, to realize the national Lebanese accord does not deceive anybody in Lebanon any longer. To negate this claim, it is sufficient to mention that the Syrian authorities, through their forces which were in Beirut, have focused their attention on establishing barriers among them in the various villages and cities, where contact lines were created. The inhabitants of Tripoli are absolutely certain of this now.

These circles go beyond all the bitter facts to divide the Lebanese rank in order to resent what has been reiterated by the information media in an implicit and concerted campaign to distort Lebanon's efforts to regain its health and sovereignty while pretending to be prepared to defend themselves, which is a natural right, and to liberate Lebanon. It is impermissible, according to a Damascus radio commentary, that there should be persons like Marshal Petain in Lebanon and every Lebanese must become a General de Gaulle and resist the Israeli occupation in deed and not in words.

The diplomatic sources denounce the advice disseminated by the radio of a state whose forces have taken up positions in Lebanon under the slogan of defending it and defending the Palestinians. Their role was confined to withdrawal when Israel invaded the south, the mountain, and the capital before the Palestinians themselves withdrew by sea, air, and land to Khartoum, Yemen, Tunisia, and elsewhere.

Within the framework of the word "advice," which Syrian official media are giving to the Lebanese, the Lebanese return the advice to their Syrian brothers, now that they have carried out their known role in the cities of Lebanon, its houses, and establishments, and point out that they have enough concerns which require deed and not words, particularly in the Golan Heights.

If the Syrian official information wants to appoint itself as teacher of liberation and patriotism, then the Lebanese do not need anyone to teach them patriotism or instill in them the spirit of liberation.

Despite all facts, which the Damascus information media cannot easily hide, Lebanon is still very eager not to equate one occupier with another. Occupation, however, is still an occupation, be it in the south and part of the coastal area or in Al-Biqa' and north.

How much we would have liked Damascus to provide an example in respecting the demands of the legitimate, sovereign, and independent state by responding to the request for withdrawal from Lebanese territory after the legitimate cover has been removed from the Syrian forces and their presence has become illegitimate.

RADIO MONTE CARLO INTERVIEWS TUWYANI ON TALKS

JN141950 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1805 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Interview by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal with Ghassan Tuwayni, Lebanese coordinator of negotiations with Israel, carried in the "It Happened Tomorrow" weekly program -- date and place not given; recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Let us begin with the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. The agenda approved yesterday stipulates that both the English and Arabic texts are identical. Nevertheless, the Israel spokesman's remarks are relatively different. The Israeli spokesman talked about security agreements, whereas the Arabic and English texts referred to security arrangements. There are also other differences; the Israeli spokesman always uses the word "agreement." Is this a coincidence or are there still differences over the agenda?

[Answer] First, I have a remark; the negotiations should be called the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations. It is, however, up to you to say Israeli-U.S.-Lebanese or U.S.-Lebanese-Israeli, or so forth. They are, therefore, tripartite negotiations.

As for the differences, there is the official text, namely the English text. The Israeli spokesman's remarks will, under no circumstances, commit us. It is natural for the Israeli spokesman to announce formulas that would satisfy or respond to his demands and would, consequently, satisfy Israeli public opinion. But the English text is the official one. The Arabic translation is official, and Lebanon has not added one single word to the official text.

[Question] The Israeli side has always been clear with regard to the relations with Lebanon, but it has always been vague over the issue of withdrawal. This has been noticed by the texts and announcements. It is being said that Israel insisted on placing the issue of normalizing relations at the top of the agenda, but then the phrase normalization has been removed from this agenda.

[Answer] The Israeli side had sought and perhaps it is still seeking, behind these negotiations, to attain objectives which we are not prepared to accept. The official U.S. spokesman, namely the official spokesman of the government which called for the negotiations, yesterday affirmed that these negotiations are being held to bring about the evacuation of non-Lebanese armies from Lebanon, foremost being naturally the Israeli army. Israel tried to link this with normalization. Lebanon, however, refused to link the evacuation of the Israeli Army with normalization of relations, Lebanon still upholding its stand. The agenda constitutes the first victory confirming that normalization cannot be linked with the evacuation of the Israeli Army.

[Question] Has the Lebanese Government a reply with regard to the Syrian and Palestinian withdrawals?

[Answer] Contacts took place and continue to take place -- they are even taking place today -- with Syria and the PLO. Lebanon has assertions that the brother Syrians and Palestinians are prepared to withdraw from Lebanon.

AL-WAZZAN STATEMENT AFTER MEETING HABIB, DRAPER

NC151625 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib accompanied by Ambassador Morris Draper, the head of the U.S. side to the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations, left Beirut for Israel around 1615 today. This visit comes to complete the talks which Habib began with Menahem Begin within the framework of his new mission to expedite the negotiations and consequently to accelerate the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Habib went to Beirut airport following a long working meeting with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at the president's residence in Sinn al-Fil. The meeting which lasted 2 hours and 20 minutes was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Eli Salim, Habib and Draper. During the meeting an evaluation was made of the current situation and the results of the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations. They also concentrated on the need to expedite the negotiations so as to accelerate the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanese territory.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan described Habib's visit to Israel as important. He expressed the hope that it will be decisive so as to put matters in their perspective. He said: we are at a new phase; we have met with Philip Habib and concentrated on Lebanon's right for the need to secure a complete withdrawal from its territory. He added: We have expressed our complete viewpoint in this regard at the beginning of this practical phase of the negotiations. Naturally, Philip Habib's departure for Israel at this peroid might be an important phase and a tour which we hope would be decisive so as to put matters in their perspective. Lebanon has endured fourfold what it could endure.

Al-Wazzan added: The time has come for everyone to understand that Lebanon cannot endure more than this and that it is demanding its right to its land and sovereignty. This is all we want, and we have concentrated on this, and we hope that we will succeed in attaining our goal.

The Lebanese-American meeting in President al-Jumayyil's residence was preceded by a meeting between Ambassador Habib and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim in one of the palace's offices in the presence of Ambassadors Draper and Dillon and Draper's assistant Christopher Ross. The meeting was attended on the Lebanese side by members of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations. During the meeting, they concentrated on evaluating the previous rounds of the negotiations which culminated in approval of an agenda and also on the current U.S. efforts that are taking place within the framework of speeding up the negotiations and accelerating the foreign withdrawals from Lebanon.

GOVERNMENT ASKS UNIFIL MANDATE EXTENSION

NC151835 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Government has asked for extending the mandate of the UN emergency forces in Lebanon for another 6 months without increasing the number of the force's members. It expressed the hope that the area of operations of the UN emergency foces will expand to include all Lebanon and not only the south. This was contained in a 6-point letter which the Lebanese UN representative has addressed and was attached to the UN Secretary General report on the UN emergency forces.

In his letter the Lebanese representative said reneving the mandate of the UN emergency forces temporarily for 6 months will perhaps have an effect on stabilizing the situation in general in the area. It will also confirm that the non-Lebanese forces and the armed elements will actually withdraw from Lebanon so that peace and security will be established.

'UBAYD CONVEYS AL-ASAD LETTER TO AL-JUMAYYIL

NC151917 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Jean 'Ubayd, the presidential special envoy, returned to Beirut from Damascus this afternoon and conveyed to President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil a reply from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Syrian president received 'Ubayd today for 3 hours and received from him a letter President al-Jumayyil on the question of the Lebanese-Israeli-American negoaitions.

QULAYLAT EXPLAINS CHANGES IN AL-MURABITUN

NC170945 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] [Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun] leader brother Ibrahim Qulaylat has affirmed that the Higher Central Revolutionary Political Committee and the Central Committee Secretariat, which have replaced the Command Council and the Central Committee Secretariat, are the two establishments capable of achieving the integration of the proper revolutionary visualization for confronting the prerequisites of the current phase. He said that the change is based on part of a precautionary plan to protect some members of the command that are being pursued at work and at home as a result of the recent war and invasion.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES SAUDI CROWN PRINCE

15 January Meeting

JN151844 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and first deputy prime minister. The talks revolved around the Arab situation and developments.

16 January Meeting

JN161732 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and first deputy prime minister. During this meeting, they resumed talks on issues concerning the situation and developments in the region. After the talks, His Highness Prince 'Abdallah had lunch with the president.

Radio Monte Carlo on Visit

JN151325 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Is Saudi Arabia currently undertaking a new mediation between Damascus and Baghdad? Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz arrived in the Syrian capital this morning meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. SPA stressed that Prince 'Abdallah will discuss the Iraqi-Iranian war with the Syrian president. The Saudi crown prince paid a surprise visit to Baghdad yesterday where he immediately met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in the presence of 'Izzat Ibrahim, Taha Yasin Ramadan, and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad. Baghdad INA said the talks dealt with the possibility of bolstering relations between Baghdad and Riyadh and touched on the general situation in the Arab world.

Radio Monte Carlo on Talks

JN161810 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris on 16 January -- live or recorded]

[Text] Extremely significant and comprehensive Syrian-Saudi talks have been taking place in Damascus over the past 24 hours. The talks deal with the various basic current issues and topics in the region. Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz arrived in Damascus from Baghdad yesterday evening. He was received twice by President Hafiz al-Asad in less than 24 hours. The first meeting took place yesterday evening and the second meeting took place this afternoon.

An authoritative source has mentioned that issues pertinent to the state of affairs and developments in the region were dealt with during the second meeting. Diplomatic sources here said that the Syrian-Saudi talks have been held in an atmosphere of brotherhood and understanding and that an in-depty review of several military, political, and economic topics was conducted during the alks. The sources explained that the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the spread of the Lebanese authority over all the Lebanese soil, the Syrian-Palestinian relations, the Palestinian affairs, inter-Arab differences, the Iraqi-Iranian war, the U.S. President's initiative, the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, relations with the big powers, and Arab solidarity have all been basic issues focused on during the Syrian-Saudi talks.

Observers expect that these talks will produce important results which will surface in the foreseeable future. The Syrian-Saudi talks are being held at a time when 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is touring the Arab Gulf with State messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to Gulf leaders, in an attempt to further consolidate the Arab solidarity vis-a-vis current challenges, particularly the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

LEBANESE PRESIDENT TELEPHONES AL-ASAD

JN141836 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Lebanese President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad and briefed him on the current state of affairs in Lebanon. The Lebanese president also told President al-Asad that he will delgate a special Lebanese envoy to Damascus tomorrow, Saturday.

AL-JUMAYYIL ENVOY ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

NC151240 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, Jan 15 (AFP) -- Jean 'Ubayd, special envoy of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, arrived here today and met immediately with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, an official source reported. Observers noted that Mr Ubayd's trip came 48 hours after Lebanon reached agreement with Israel on the agenda for negotiations between the two countries on a withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Syria also has forces in Lebanon. Mr Ubayd was last in Damascus on December 15, when he delivered a message from Mr al-Jumayyil to the Syrian head of state.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES AL-JUMAYYIL'S MESSAGE

JN151532 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 15 Jan (SANA) -- President Hafiz al-Asad today received Jean 'Ubayd, the personal envoy of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. The Lebanese envoy conveyed a message to President al-Asad from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. He also explained the Lebanese position in the current contacts and discussions and what the Lebanese side is seeking to achieve. President al-Asad asked the Lebanese envoy to convey a message to the Lebanese president.

President al-Asad stressed Syria's support for Lebanon's efforts to achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all Lebanese territories and the restoration of the Lebanese sovereignty over them. President al-Asad also reaffirmed Syria's stand that Israel should withdraw from Lebanon without any gains from of its invasion and without imposing any conditions which conflict with Lebanon's rights and soverignty.

MINISTER ASH-SHAR' RECEIVES LEBANON'S JUNBLATT

JN171106 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, received Walid Junblatt, Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader, and Riyad Ra'd, member of the PSP leadership, in Damascus this morning. Talks dealt with the current situation in Lebanon and the region. Junblatt arrived in Damascus this morning.

AL-AHMAR RECEIVES LEBANESE PARTY OFFICIAL

JN161302 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received In'am Ra'd, leader of the Lebanese National Syrian Social Party, in the presence of 'Isam Mahayiri, member of the party's Political Bureau. They discussed the current political developments and the current situation in Lebanon, in particular, and in the Arab arena, in general.

Comrade al-Ahmar reconfirmed Syria's steadfastness in the U.S.-Israeli plots and its inalienable role in support of Lebanon to help it evacuate the invading Zionist army and preserve its unity and independence. He also underlined the importance of the Lebanese national accord in confronting the Israeli occupation and preventing the enemy from forcing its conditions in Lebanon.

Toward the end of the meeting, In'am Ra'd spoke highly of Syria's role and President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership in backing Lebanon's confrontation of the demands of the aggressive Israeli enemy. He stressed that Syria would remain a base for Arab steadfastness to foil the imperialist and Zionist designs and evacuate the Zionist forces from Lebanon and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

DAMASCUS RADIO VIEWS PRESSURE ON LEBANON

JN141444 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] Since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon took place in accordance with the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, it is not strange or unlikely that those two aggressive sides are placing different pressures on Lebanon to accept things which are against its own interests, independence, and sovereignty, as well as its own pan-Arab ties and existence.

The influence of these pressures was evident in the U.S. role in the U.S.-Lebanese-Israeli liaison committee, particularly in the efforts to include certain topics on the working agenda, such as defining the framework of relations between Lebanon and Israel. This gives the United States and Israel a wide range of maneuvers within which to revive the issue of normalizing relations which Lebanon has firmly declined to discuss.

It has been expected that the United States would place pressure on Lebanon, especially when Ronald Reagan said during a meeting with Israeli President Navon that the issue of Israeli-Lebanese relations must go beyond the military aspect. This simply means that Washington and Tel Aviv are placing heavy pressure on Lebanon to make it accept their conditions. The two sides want to exploit the circumstances of the invasion and occupation under which Lebanon is living. This and many similar statements confirm that the allied U.S. and Israeli partners are insistent that the future Lebanese map be determined by force, under the assumption that Lebanon is a U.S. and Israeli protectorate.

The feelings of satisfaction and delight expressed by U.S. and Israeli officials yesterday are a blatant disclosure of their real intentions toward Lebanon. Navon announced that Israel will not make any concessions and that normal relations will prevail between Israel and Lebanon, stressing that bilateral relations will be completely normalized. President Ronald Reagan, on the other hand, expressed optimism with what has been achieved.

Meanwhile, Zionist war minister Sharon met in occupied southern Lebanon with Sa'd Haddad to discuss the future of his entity within the framework of the security measures Israel wants to force on Arab Lebanon.

Thus, Lebanon is under strong U.S. and Israeli pressure to yield to the U.S.-Israeli trap and eventually change it into a satellite protectorate, which would threaten the Lebanese people's interests and Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty and threaten, as well, the Arab nation's interests and the interests and security of Arab Syria, the twin sister of Lebanon.

All Arab countries are called upon to stand alongside Lebanon and back its refusal to accept the U.S.-Israeli conditions. At the same time, the Arabs are called upon to realize that if Lebanon is caught by the U.S.-Israeli trap, the U.S.-Israeli plot will move a big step forward toward imposing of U.S.-Israeli hegemony over more Arab countries within the framework of Ronald Reagan's plan which is hostile to all the Arabs, their aspirations and future.

As it warns the Arabs about all these threats, Syria reaffirms that it firmly rejects the U.S.-Israeli conditions being imposed on Lebanon. Syria considers any attempt to impose an agreement that may be harmful to Lebanon's security, unity, and sovereignty as something harmful to Syria's own security and interests. Syria will resist this attempt and struggle to defeat it. At the same time, Syria will continue to back Lebanon with all its power to liberate it from the Zionist invasion and preserve its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the unity of its people. Furthermore, Syria will continue to confront all the attempts to harm Lebanon in any way.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM TO TOUR ARAB GULF

JN151850 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will leave tomorrow, Sunday, for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE carrying messages from President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the current Arab situation.

Radio Monte Carlo on Tour

JN151824 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Telephone dispatch from Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris on 15 January -- live or recorded]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will tomorrow leave for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE, carrying messages from President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the current situation. There is a joint Lebanese-Syrian effort aimed at ensuring further effective Arab pressure on Israel's allies, particularly the United States, in order to guarantee an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. What is required at this stage is to put pressure on Israel and not Lebanon.

CABINET SESSION ENDS; FOREIGN AFFAIRS DISCUSSED

TA160942 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] The Cabinet session this morning was shorter than usual and ended about 1 and 1/2 hours after it began. Correspondents were not allowed into the press room in the prime minister's office, where they usually wait for the Cabinet secretary's announcement. No explanation has been given for this.

In a short announcement released by the Cabinet secretary, it was said that the foreign minister reviewed political affairs and Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche reported on the progress made in the negotiations with Lebanon.

The Cabinet also discussed Minister Burg's proposal to change the election law for the chief rabbis. The discussion of this proposal will continue in the next Cabinet meeting. This was the announcement of the Cabinet secretary.

Schiffer Comments on Session

TA161157 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reviews 16 January Cabinet session -- live]

[Text] The prime minister reported today to the ministers about the talk he held with Philip Habib. The U.S. envoy asked him to appoint representatives, senior representatives, that will aid Habib in finding ways to accelerate the negotiations on an agreement [heskem] in Lebanon. Menahem Begin announced today to the ministers that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, and Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche will be his representatives, and they will meet this afternoon at the foreign minister's office with mediator Philip Habib and Ambassador Morris Draper. So from now on, there will be two stages to the continued negotiations with Lebanon.

Philip Habib will continue to move between Jerusalem, Beirut, and Damascus. He will meet the senior representatives and they will decide on the central issues of the negotiations. The committees that will meet in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona will only decide the details and the final phrasing of the agreements [heskemim]. This is what Philip Habib suggests in order to achieve progress in the talks.

The prime minister told the ministers very little about the letter he received from U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The prime minister said the letter is friendly, and that in this letter Ronald Reagan is asking him to accelerate the negotiations that will bring about an agreement [heskem] in Lebanon as well as the evacuation of all foreign forces, including the U.S. forces. The prime minister commented that no one in the U.S. Administration is accusing Israel of stalling the talks. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir confirmed these points.

There were a few comments in the Cabinet session. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i commented that Israel should not react to every statement coming from Lebanon or even a statement of President al-Asad, who is trying to prevent Israel from reaching achievements in the negotiations. We should not fight for prestige now but we should fight about essence. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not agree with Minister Moda'i, and said that Israel should clarify its positions and the subjects [as heard] it is trying to achieve.

As for the U.S. position, today it is clear that the United States will go on trying to prevent Israel from reaching three achievements it is looking for in the negotiations. They are: Israel would like to establish warning stations in Lebanon for a limited period of time, according to the agreement of the Lebanese Government. Philip Habib already expressed his opposition to this in his talk with the prime minister. The U.S. claim is that if you want to establish warning stations, the Syrians as well will want to establish warning stations in Lebanon, consequently Syrian presence will continue in Lebanon.

A second subject that will be disputed is the status of UNIFIL. Israel insists that in the security zones there be no UNIFIL presence. The job of security in those areas will be in the hands of Lebanese Army units.

The third subject that will be disputed is the subject of Haddad. Israel insists that Haddad's forces be incorporated in guarding security in the Lebanese area [as heard]. The United States will insist that Haddad's forces not have a special status.

As for the Syrian position, up until now the delegation that will meet Habib has no news on the Syrian stand regarding the evacuation from Lebanon.

The prime minister's spokesman, Uri Porat, denied some reports that were published at the end of the week. Uri Porat says there is no basis to the reports that the talks between Israel and Lebanon will be transferred to Washington. The talks will continue in the area, says Uri Porat. But it should be noted that for some time the Americans have been deliberating the transfer of the talks to Washington, thus hoping to keep the central role for the United States in the peace talks. The prime minister also denied at the Cabinet session the report that there is a secret agreement between Israel and Syria. This report was attributed to Secretary of State George Shultz. The prime minister said this report is groundless.

More on Cabinet Session

TA161613 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel -- recorded]

[Text] It seems that there is no news regarding Lebanon. In spite of the official agenda for the talks and the secret agreement reached in mid-December, Beirut is still trying to minimize the nature of future relations between the two countries. From reports submitted to the Cabinet today, it emerges that the Lebanese interpretation of the item on the agenda regarding ending the state of war, refers to the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon and returning to the format of the 1949 armistice agreement. The clause regarding normalization in relations between Israel and Lebanon appears in print as relations similar to the open bridges on the Jordan River -- namely, passage of orange shipments in winter, crossing of pilgrims into Jerusalem during the Christian holiday season, and nothing more than that. Lebanon is swinging between Damascus and Washington and is changing its positions at a very fast pace, ministers said at the end of the Cabinet session.

In the Cabinet session, Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i referred to the harsh statements made recently by Lebanese Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Syrian President al-Asad. Moda'i said: We must keep our mouths shut and not react; substance is far more important than the public show staged by the leaders in Beirut and Damascus. According to Moda'i, the Lebanese question is ultimately marginal and Israel has more serious problems which call for the Cabinet's attention, such as the future of Judaea and Samaria.

The foreign minister differed with Moda'i and said there should be a reaction and that it is important that the world be aware of our interpretation of the agenda.

Minister Uzan queried the meaning of Minister Shamir's utterances in France. The prime minister replied that the tourism minister was apparently referring to the contacts held about 1 and 1/2 years ago through Ambassador Habib's mediation rather than to as yet unpublicized reports.

During the Cabinet session, the prime minister announced the establishment of a special team which will hold daily contacts with Ambassador Habib. The team was established at the suggestion of Habib himself who seeks to set up parallel teams also in Beirut and Damascus. The special team includes Ministers Sharon and Shamir and Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. The composition of the team was decided on Friday and this is also the reason why the defense minister's visit to Zaire was postponed.

Political sources this evening noted that the talks with Habib would focus on the question of the withdrawal from Lebanon and would not replace the talks about the security arrangements in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona.

The prime minister informed the ministers that the letter he received from President Reagan includes a request to accelerate the evacuation of Lebanon. The prime minister stated today: Israel, just like the United States, is striving for the speedy withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Begin denied the existence of any agreements with the Syrians about the division of areas of influence in Lebanon. It was also denied that in the meeting with Habib, the U.S. ambassador openly stated or hinted that progress in the negotiations is related to the prime minister's visit in Washington. The prime minister said the date of the visit would be set soon.

Another denial: The prime minister's adviser on media affairs, Uri Porat, said today that the talks between Israel and Lebanon would not be transferred from this region to the U.S. capital.

In conclusion, Washington wants to give momentum to the talks. To that end, it has created a new channel for contacts in the region. Ambassador Habib will shuttle among the capitals and will hold direct talks with government leaders in each place. Ambassador Morris Draper along with Antoine Fattal and David Kimche will continue to deal with the official formulation of the arrangements in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona.

ISRAELI 'SOURCES' ON CONDITIONS FOR WITHDRAWAL

NC161743 Paris AFP in English 1733 GMT 16 Jan 83

[By Jean-Francois Le Mounier]

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 16 (AFP) -- Israel is prepared to pull its troops out of Lebanon if all Palestine Liberation Organization forces leave first, and if the Syrian Arab Deterrent Force leaves along with the Israelis, official sources here said today.

The report came as the Israeli Cabinet, reacting to U.S. pressure to speed up negotiations on the withdrawal from Lebanon, named a top-level committee to maintain a running dialogue with U.S. Middle East envoy Philip Habib and his assistant, Morris Draper.

The ad hoc committee was formed at today's regular Cabinet meeting after Prime Minister Mehahem Begin received a personal message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan urging an accelerated withdrawal, the sources said.

The committee is reportedly composed of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and chief Israeli negotiator David Kimche, who immediately began contacts with Mr Habib.

Observers here said Israel was counting on the Americans to pressure Syria into withdrawing its troops from Lebanon. But Israel is also demanding an end to the deployment of the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) along its northern border -- a point the U.S. opposes. Israel has often accused UNIFIL of softness towards the PLO.

Israel is reportedly also holding out for the maintenance of post-withdrawal "early warning" stations in Lebanon, which both the U.S. and Lebanon oppose.

The seventh session of withdrawal negotiations, scheduled tomorrow in Khaldah, Lebanon, will deal mainly with bilateral Israeli-Lebanese relations. Mr Draper, who last Thursday struck an Israeli-Lebanese compromise on a negotiating agenda, is to continue his efforts to whittle down contentions between the two nations, sources said.

An unofficial Israeli sources added that Mr Habib had targeted no firm date for withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. But observers saw his arrival on the scene as a clear sign that attention was been refocused on the plan for a staggered withdrawal that he proposed last fall.

(In Beirut, it was officially announced that Lebanese Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Zafir al-Hasan had been assigned to the Lebanese negotiating team and that he would take part in tomorrow's session in Khaldah).

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON WITHDRAWAL

TA151948 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yoram Ronen; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the prime minister's talks in Washington will be held as soon as possible but that their date has not been determined yet. In an interview with our political correspondent, Shamir adds that there is impatience in the United States and a desire to see the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon, but that Israel's position is that the PLO must leave first.

Shamir will report to the Cabinet tomorrow on the negotiations with Lebanon. Yesterday, the foreign minister conferred with the prime minister and defense minister about the positions which Israel will take in the contacts with Lebanon, and on the possibility of King Husayn joining the political process. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen spoke with the foreign minister, first about the talks Mr Begin will have in Washington:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I cannot refer to leaks of this kind; they have not been confirmed by official U.S. sources. I do not believe there is any crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations. I assume the prime minister's talks in Washington will be held as soon as possible, although the date has not yet been set.

[Question] Mr Shamir, President Reagan insists on implementing his famous plan as quickly as possible. In your opinion, is there a chance that this plan will materialize?

[Answer] As we have been told several times by authoritative U.S. Administration officials, a plan is not in question here. In his 1 September speech, the U.S. President raised some ideas pertaining to resolving the Middle East problems. Apparently, when talks are held between the Americans and us, these ideas will come up. As I judge the situation now, I assume that over time the U.S. positions will change, while Israel's position is known and clear.

[Question] Mr Shamir, do you see King Husayn joining the peace process soon as the United States would like him to do?

[Answer] If he joins, we will see him. In any event, we have always said and continue to say now that we will welcome King Husayn's joining the negotiations with us about the autonomy in the framework of the Camp David accords.

[Question] Reports quoting Philip Habib state that the evacuation of the foreign forces from Lebanon will start as early as a month. Does this estimation seem realistic to you?

[Answer] It appears to me that this is exaggerated. We have not heard this date from him. We know there is some impatience in the United States and that the Americans would like to see the foreign military forces move out of Lebanon as soon as possible. However, in our opinion the PLO members should be the first to withdraw from Lebanon. If they withdraw from Lebanon immediately, then indeed this time frame may be the case. As far as we are concerned, this can take place even before 12 February.

[Question] In conclusion, Mr Shamir, it was reported yesterday that a struggle is raging between the Defense and Foreign Ministries about which of the two has primary responsibility for publicizing the agreement on the agenda. Do you view yourself as a party to this "struggle"?

[Answer] There is no such struggle. These are mere rumors, totally unfounded. We are today absorbed in the effort to reach an agreement and to succeed in the negotiations.

SHARON COMMENTS ON WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

TA161952 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Excerpt] This evening, after a prolonged discussion lasting more than 2 hours with U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Dan Scemama asked the defense minister if the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon was closed:

[Begin Sharon videotape] I would not like to comment on a timetable. We are all aiming to do this as rapidly as possible, on one condition: that this will be an arrangement that will guarantee Israel's security in the future and that Lebanon will not again serve as a center of terrorism -- local, regional, and international.

NAVON SAYS REAGAN BELIEVES PLAN BEST FOR ISRAEL

TA161530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Israeli President Yitzhaq Navon, upon returning from a state visit to the United States, has said that President Ronald Reagan really and sincerely believes that his plan is for Israel's benefit, and the United States will do nothing to endanger Israel's security.

He also said that the U.S. Jews whom he met with and called to emigrate to Israel received the call with great emotion. There were also Jews who went to him and told him they were prepared to immigrate. Our correspondent Meron Tzur has learned from a source close to the president that he appealed in a personal letter to the U.S. President, asking him to work to find those missing in the Peace for Galilee war.

SCHIFFER ON HABIB'S MISSION, KHALDAH TALKS

TA170552 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer commentary -- live]

[Text] God created the world in 6 days; these negotiations as well can finish in a week. In these words, the U.S. mediator tried to convince the Israeli team to change the system of negotiations with Lebanon. Let us agree on principles and I will persuade Al-Jumayyil's administration; otherwise the argument will continue forever. The prime minister and the defense and foreign ministers decided to agree a little to his request. Ari'el Sharon stressed that the direct talks in the framework of the committees in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona are helpful and will bring about positive results.

What was not said is that Israel and the United States agree on the general aims [ye'adim] of the negotiations in Lebanon, but dispute the goals [matarot]. Jerusalem is asking for an arrangement [hesder] that will ensure its presence in Lebanon in the shape of the warning stations, the change of the UNIFIL duties, and ensuring Haddad forces' status in the south. The United States is interested in a limited political arrangement [hesder], claiming that otherwise it will be difficult to get the Syrians and the PLO out of Lebanon. The prime minister supports the acceleration of the negotiations that will bring about a quick withdrawal, but only if it is simultaneous.

Sources close to the negotiations this morning estimate that Habib has no means of ensuring a quick withdrawal, or a quick solution to the Lebanese affair. The U.S. envoy, who with a certain smile said yesterday that the meetings at the negotiations committee bore him, will wait today for the results of the talks in Khaldah, and will then decide on his continuing course.

MFO SOLDIER KILLED; TWO INJURED IN MINE INCIDENT

TA171303 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] A U.S. soldier of the multinational force in Ofira was killed and another two were injured when they mistakenly entered a minefield. Our correspondent Eytan Rabin reports that the wounded soldiers were transferred to the Yosef Tal Hospital in Elat aboard a helicopter. One of the soldiers sustained severe wounds.

More on Mine Incident

TA171255 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1248 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Two U.S. soldiers of the Mutlinational Force and Observers [MFO] in Sharm ash-Shaykh were severely injured when their vehicle drove over a mine this morning. They were transferred abroad a U.S. Air Force helicopter to the Yosef Tal Medical Center in Elat. At this time, efforts are underway to save the life of one of them.

It was reported from the hospital that this soldier was especially severely injured and his hand was amputated. The ITIM correspondent says that the possibility should not be ruled out that it was an old mine which was swept away by floods from one of the wadis in the area.

IDF SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES SOLDIER WOUNDED

TA161259 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1255 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] [Dateline as received] (ITIM) -- An IDF soldier was slightly wounded this afternoon from light arms fire from an ambush of a convoy of IDF vehicles moving north to Tyre. Fire was returned at the source of the shooting. IDF units began combing the area in order to discover those who shot at them.

PHALANGIST WARNS OF PLO ACTIVITY AGAINST MFO

TA161234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] The commander of the Christian Phalangists in Beirut, Fu'ad Ephraim, warns that underground cells of the PLO intend to carry out terrorist acts against the U.S., French, and Italian units of the multinational force in Lebanon.

In an interview to the Beirut paper MONDAY MORNING, he said that PLO and communist cells still exist in Beirut, although most of them were thrown out during the summer. He stressed that these groups have a definite plan to undermine the stability in the areas controlled by the multinational force, thus giving their governments second thoughts about keeping their soldiers in Lebanon. Ephraim also said that he supports signing a peace agreement with Israel so Syria will not be able to pressure Lebanon again.

SHARIR DENIES REPORT ON PROPOSED PACT WITH PLO

TA161446 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1437 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir has vehemently denied reports originating in Paris quoting him as having said that on the eve of the Peace for Galilee war Israel had rejected a PLO proposal for a nonaggression pact. The reports from Paris quoting me, Minister Sharir said, are distorted and malicious; this is a storm in a teacup initiated by the opposition, which seeks to fish in murky waters. Associates of the tourism minister told our correspondent that an investigation they conducted revealed that not even one Israeli journalist had attended the gathering in Paris where Sharir allegedly made his remarks. The check-up revealed that a Jewish journalist working for an extreme leftist magazine spread this information to Israeli correspondents.

FATAH TO SET UP MILITARY COMMAND IN JORDAN

TA130741 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Jordanian King Husayn has allowed the Fatah headquarters headed by Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] to set up its military command in Jordan and to control its fighters, including the forces stationed within the Syrian deployment in Al-Biqa', from that country. Our correspondent on Arab affairs Aharon Barne'a recalls that Abu Jihad and another prominent Fatah group moved to Amman over 2 months ago and set up their command in that city. Prior to the war in Lebanon, the Fatah headquarters had resided in Beirut. The command in charge of terrorist operations in the so-called western area, which includes Israel and the territories, still resides in Damascus.

Nevertheless, the Jordanian authorities do not allow PLO men to carry arms, and anyone crossing into Jordan from Syria is forced to give up his weapons.

The only armed Palestinians in Jordan are Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA] members, nicknamed the Badr force, who are being integrated into the Jordanian Army.

Husayn and 'Arafat also discussed the possibility of moving the PLO's political headquarters from Tunis to Amman.

BEGIN REPEATS INVITATION TO JORDAN TO TALK

TA141837 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin today repeated his invitation to Jordan to come and discuss the future of Judaea and Samaria with Israel on the basis of the Camp David accords. Mr Begin said he will not oppose including Arab leaders from Judaea and Samaria, who are not PLO people, in the Jordanian delegation. The prime minister said this to a delegation of Jewish leaders from the United States.

HA'ARETZ SAYS NAVON TO RETIRE IN MAY 83

TA171114 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jan 83 p 1

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] President Yitzhak Navon will apparently resign from office next May at the end of his first term, and will not present his candidacy for a second term, this HA'ARETZ reporter learned yesterday.

President Navon, who returned yesterday from a visit to the United States, intimated that he would officially announce his decision only in February. However, it has been learned that he has already decided not to continue in his post for another 5 years. He wishes to devote himself to writing books and to unburden himself of all public activity at least for awhile. During his visit to the United States, Israeli and Jewish leaders who spoke with Navon came away with the impression that he apparently does not intend to remain in office. Several times during his visit Navon hinted at this possibility, and at a meeting with Jewish intellectuals at Elie Wiesel's home, he said: "As writers and artists you will understand me, and know how it feels to have several stories sitting in my belly nagging and crying 'Let us out' day in and day out."

It may be assumed that the vigorous opposition of his wife Ofira to his taking on a second term of office has also had an influence on Navon's decision. There is a reasonable possibility that after a cooling-off period, the president himself will determine as he sees fit, and resume public life.

It has been learned that one of the prime candidates for the presidential post is Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg. A spokesman for the president yesterday refused to comment on the president's decision.

REPORT SAYS SHARON LEAVING FOR ZAIRE 'THIS WEEK'

TA151729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Defense Minister Sharon will go to Zaire this week. Sharon was to leave for Zaire this evening, but his trip was postponed. Officially, it was announced that Sharon had to remain in Israel due to current affairs.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the steering team for the negotiations with Lebanon is going to meet tomorrow and Sharon's presence in this meeting is defined as vital. After the agenda for the Lebanese-Israeli talks has been determined, the steering team will deal with the substantive issues which will be discussed during the negotiations. These issues include some points where there are disagreements between the defense minister and foreign minister.

Sharon on Zaire Trip

TA161741 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1727 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon is to go to Zaire soon. This evening he said that in the wake of the resumption of diplomatic relations with Zaire, a renewal of diplomatic relations is to be expected with other African countries. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal spoke with the defense minister:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Sharon, you are scheduled to go to Zaire. What are the goals of the visit?

[Answer] This week I am going for a first official visit to Africa at the invitation of the president of Zaire, the first visit by an Israeli defense minister since relations with the African countries were severed in 1973. About 15 months ago I visited Zaire; this time it is an official visit. This will be important. I am happy that I will hold talks with President Mobuto, for whom and for his independence we have great admiration. The goal of the visit is certainly to tighten our links with Zaire, and I think that this can also help to pave the road for a renewal of our relations with other countries of the continent. [end recording]

Sharon on Arms Sales to Zaire

TA161832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Before his departure for Kinshasa, the defense minister said he estimated that a renewal of relations with Zaire was the first step toward a renewal of relations with other countries on the African Continent. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon also said that nothing had been agreed upon with Zaire regarding the sale of captured weapons. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal points out that from foreign publications it emerges that Israel is also training a commando unit of the Zaire Army.

ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUR SETTLEMENTS APPROVED

TA161627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] The Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs has approved the establishment of four settlements in the southern Hebron hills, three of them within the Green Line boundaries. Three settlements -- Eshkolot, Bet Mirsin, and Lahav "C" -- will be established by the United Kibbutz Movement whereas the fourth settlement, Yatir "C" will be set up by Gush Emunim beyond the Green Line. The committee also approved the settlement campaign in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and the 'Arava conducted by the center for orientation to development towns. Our correspondent reports that only two of the seven committee members, Ministers Yuval Ne'eman and Moshe Nisim, attended the meeting today. The rest of the ministries were represented by officials.

EGYPT RECALLS CONSUL IN ELAT 13 JANUARY

TA141019 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Jan 83 p 1

[Report by Betzal'el Rubin]

[Text] Egypt's consul in Elat yesterday received a sudden order to return to Cairo. The departure of the consul, Hasan 'Isa, was so hasty that he did not attend an Egyptian dinner held yesterday evening at Elat's Laguna Hotel. Though the consul was holding the dinner under his auspices, the consulate's first secretary attended it instead.

It emerges that the consul flew to Tel Aviv yesterday at 1600 and that he flew from Ben-Gurion Airport to Cairo a little while later. It has been conjectured that the consul's sudden departure is connected with the continuing dispute between Egypt and Israel about the Tabah area, and with the recent visits to that area by the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the commander of the southern command.

Our correspondent Arye Tzimuqi reports that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent a message to Prime Minister Menahem Begin this week, in which he stressed his fidelity to the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt. Mubarak also promised to act to restrain publications hostile to Israel. The message was received sympathetically in Israel.

Elat Consul Interviewed

TA161305 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Jan 83 p 4

[Interview with Egyptian Consul in Elat Hasan 'Isa by Yisra'el Tomer: "Israel is creating unnecessary tension around the future of the Tabah region -- date and place not given]

[Text] "If we solve the Tabah problem there will be no tension between us," the Egyptian consul in Elat, Hasan 'Isa, said in an exclusive interview he granted YEDI'OT AHARONOT a few days before he was recalled to Cairo for urgent consultations.

The pleasant Egyptian consul had some complaints to voice about Israel's conduct on the Tabah issue. According to 'Isa, it was agreed about a year ago, on the eve of the evacuation from the Sinai, that as long as the dispute over the sovereignty in Tabah remained unresolved, the area would be demilitarized and civilians of both countries would be given free access to it. According to the Egyptian consul, while Israel is letting its citizens enter the Tabah region without any problems, the Egyptian citizens are required to present passports and entry permits upon their arrival in Tabah. Moreover, the consul said, Israeli policemen are present in the area contrary to the demilitarization agreement, and the Israeli flag is flying over the Avia Sonesta Hotel, also contrary to the agreement.

"It is the Israeli side which escalates the situation in the region and creates unnecessary tension by trying to determine sovereignty over Tabah, despite the agreement between us that no action be taken to determine sovereignty in a disputed region," the Egyptian consul said.

In a talk with the YEDI'OT AHARONOT reporter, he did not conceal his discontent with the fact that Cabinet members make sharp declarations about the future of this region. 'Isa claimed that this entails counter Egyptian declarations; in addition, "when first-rank Israeli spokesman make such declarations they do not solve the problem.

They only increase the tension, exacerbate the situation, and gain headlines in the international press. By declaring these things, the Tabah region has not become more Israeli..."

How should the problem be solved in Hasan 'Isa's opinion?

The Egyptian consul: "Without ignoring the fact that Tabah is a serious and delicate problem, because land is in question, this problem need not cause a conflict between our countries. We have solved problems that seemed totally insoluble at first. Regarding the Tabah region, we know at least the way toward a solution, and have even agreed on this way.

"I would like to mention that at the time, Israel and Egypt agreed on the manner of solving disputes on border demarcations: first negotiations, and if negotiations do not culminate in an agreement, the problem should then be handed over to international arbitration, with each side announcing in advance its readiness to accept the ruling of this international arbitration. It was also agreed that each side would appoint its representative on the arbitration body and that a third, neutral, person would be appointed by mutual consent of the two sides.

"Egypt has already announced its readiness to have arbitration and it accepts in advance the ruling of the arbitration. Egypt also appointed its representative for the arbitration body which should be set up. However, Israel has not done so to date," the consul said.

In 'Isa's opinion, the Tabah problem has a negative effect on tourism in the entire region. Some of the Israeli tourism elements in Elat agreed to this assessment in their talk with the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent.

All elements in Elat laud the positive activity of the Egyptian consul there. Special note is made regarding the consul's contribution to lifting the bureaucratic obstacles in crossing the border point in the Tabah region. Note is also taken of his contribution to solving the problems arising regarding Israeli yachts and their anchorage near the Sinai shores in the Coral Island area.

Prior to his urgent departure for Egypt, the Egyptian consul in Elat said: "I do not feel like a consul in a foreign country in Elat. I feel like a person who lives among friends. However, when problems crop up each side begins to be more cautious and more formal."

FIRST DIRECT ELAT-CAIRO ISRAELI FLIGHT REPORTED

TA161322 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jan 83 p 3

[Report from Elat by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] For the first time since the Camp David accords were signed, an Israeli-marked plane left Elat on a direct flight to Cairo. The plane, of the Chieftain type, with nine passengers on board, left yesterday morning and is scheduled to return this morning.

The plane is owned by an Elat company and is flying through the Sinai.

The deputy consul and his family were also on board this plane, although it is not absolutely certain that he indeed left Elat for Cairo.

A few months ago, a plane left Elat for Luxor but it was marked as American, although it was an Israeli plane.

FRONTLINERS TO SUPPORT 'LIBERATION MOVEMENT'

EA151518 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1300 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Arusha: African frontline states have reaffirmed their determination to intensify support to nationalist movements waging the protracted struggle to liberate the oppressed peoples in southern Africa.

In a joint communique released in Arusha today at the end of their 2-day closed consultations, ministers responsible for defense and security in the frontline states said political and material support to liberation movements in southern Africa would be intensified in order that the liberation struggle can be executed more effectively.

According to the communique, the ministers reviewed a number of issues phenomenon [as heard] of deliberate destabilization of the countries of southern Africa by the racist regime of Pretoria. The ministers strongly condemned the military activities by the South African regime against frontline states and reproved in strongest terms the recent raid by Pretoria, killing 42 innocent refugees and Lesotho nationals.

The conference was attended by delegates from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Lesotho, although not a member of the frontline states, attended the conference.

Kampala Radio Report

EA161900 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Africa's frontline states have restated their determination to increase support to nationalist movements in southern Africa. A joint communique issued in Dar es Salaam by the defense and security ministers of the six frontline nations at the end of a 2-day secret meeting in Arusha, northern Tanzania, said the six are prepared to step up material support in order that the liberation struggle can be executed more effectively.

The ministerial meeting, also attended by Lesotho, reportedly reviewed the security situation in the member countries, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, in view of the increased raids by the Pretoria regime. Lesotho, though not a member of the frontline group, was invited to brief the meeting on the recent South African raid on the alleged ANC base in Maseru, during which 42 people were killed.

The communique said that the defense and security ministers noted that the current situation in the subcontinent was a real threat to peace and security in southern Africa.

The ministers also condemned the military activities by Pretoria against neighboring African states. The ministers demanded the immediate withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia and Angola as well as those along the borders with the frontline nations. They also rejected attempts by the United States and South Africa to link the presence of the Cuban troops in Angola with the settlement on Namibian independence.

ALGERIA

PALESTINIAN LEADERS GREETED BY LAKHDAR IBRAHIMI

LD170800 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and Nayif Hawatimah, PFLP secretary general, arrived in Algiers last night. They were welcomed on their arrival by Brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi, adviser in the presidency, chief of the organizations and bodies department in the party, and official responsible for the Liberation Movements Department in the party.

GDR DELEGATION LEAVES AFTER SIGNING PROTOCOL

LD151052 Algiers APS in English 1009 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Algiers, 15/1/83 (APS) -- The German delegation (GDR) led by Mr Gerhard Schuerer, deputy member of the CC Politburo of the German Unified Socialist Party (SED), deputy president of the state commission to planning [title as received], left yesterday Algiers.

Messrs Abdelhamid Brahimi, CC member, minister of planning and land improvement, and Gerhard Schuerer signed on Thursday a proceedings sanctioning talks of the two delegations.

The GDR delegation visit which comes within the frame of the convention signed between the two countries' central organs of planning in 1980 enabled the reinforcement of the cooperation between the Ministry of Planning and Land Improvement and the GDR State Commission to Planning.

In an appendix to the proceedings the two delegations adopted a programme of action for 1983-1984 regarding the exchange of experience and information throughout meetings between experts in planning of the two countries on precise subjects such as the implementation of investments, planning of human resources and land improvement.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER

LD171028 Tripoli JANA in English 0907 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 3, Jan 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The leader of the revolution received yesterday Mr Muslih Qasim, Democratic Yemen's Defence Minister, who handed him a letter from President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad on Democratic Yemen's agreement to hold the conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front called for by the leader.

Al-'Ubaydi Confers With Qasim

LD162100 Tripoli JANA in English 1828 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 2, Jan 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Abd al-'Ati al-Ubaydi this morning conferred with Mr Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the Central Committee and defence minister of South Yemen who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

Discussions centred on methods of enhancing fraternal relations and cooperation between the Libyan Arab and Yemeni peoples in all fields, and ways of confronting imperialist-Zionist-reactionary schemes to undermine the Arab nation's freedom.

Mr Muslih Qasim affirmed South Yemen's positive response to the leader's call for holding a meeting in Tripoli at the earliest possible date of the leaders of the National Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation to face current conditions and to agree on a comprehensive strategy capable of dealing with the current situation through which the Arab nation is passing.

JALLUD CONDEMNS IRAQ, CALLS FOR MARTYRDOM

LD161353 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Report on speech by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Revolution Command Council member, at ceremony to mark the birthday of Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, at the Egyptian Front offices in Tripoli on 15 January]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 16 Jan (JANA) -- Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud said that our celebration at this place in particular has more than one meaning. This building was once a church and one of the colonialist instruments of the Christian imperialist culture against the Arab nation. It used to form one of the links of the capitalist, Christian cultural invasion of the Arab nation and Africa.

He added: Today we celebrate this place, as a result of the Great Fatih Revolution, being turned into a movement of enlightenment for Islamic missionaries and a bastion of Islamic enlightenment, which gives Islam its true meaning and projects it as a revolution in the full meaning of the word. This alone honors 'Abd an-Nasir, who revolutionized Al-Azhar and destroyed this charlatanism and dervishism in it and turned it into a progressive Arab-Islamic cultural center of enlightenment. He also banned any meeting in it with the Zionists.

Staff Maj Jallud exposed the posture of the Iraqi regime. He asked: Where is the Ba'ath Party that outbid 'Abd an-Nasir in the Rodgers plan? Where is the Ba'th Party in Iraq, which recently has become an instrument used by America to fight the Islamic Revolution in Iran and to betray the struggles of the Iraqi people and their national forces? Saddam took part in Fes and was among the Arab rulers who recognized the enemy in Fes. Moreover, the Iraqi information media are wooing America and are boasting and saying that we are against your strategy and that Iraq is within the American strategy. Staff Maj Jallud added that the Iraqi regime has stated that there is no Arab ruler in existence who does not believe in the existence of the State of Israel and that security guarantees must be given to the State of Israel. He explained that they have the right, since there is no Arab ruler who does not believe in the existence of the State of Israel.

He said that we in Libya are ashamed for Baghdad, pan-Arab Baghdad, revolutionary Baghdad, rejectionist Baghdad. He explained that today Baghdad is an instrument in the hand of reaction and America. He pointed out that Iraq's resources are being used now to stike at the Arab masses after the plots against Iraq destroyed Iraq's decisions.

Staff Maj Jallud explained that the problem in the Arab homeland is not one of weapons or manpower, rather it is the defeated Arab political will represented in the rulers. The Arab is defeated by bourgeoise Western liberal cultures through the Arab information media, which writes in Arabic letters and serves the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary aims. He said: Then the problem lies in the psychological defeat. At the fifth meeting of the Revolutionary Committee the defeated mentality was analyzed. Psychology explains the reasons for this defeat. The problem is not that of ability; it is in the lack of will to fight and to be martyred. He pointed out that the Libyan people had fought the Italians because martyrdom was a must, the way the Algerian people fought the French for love of martyrdom.

This is also the case with the Lebanese and the Iranians. He stressed that our theory is love for death and martyrdom and our mobilization project is to drive the masses toward the love of death.

He said that what happened in Beirut is a crisis and that the problems of all our defeats since 1948 until now is ideological and the natural result of the defeated political will of the rulers and the will of the defeated Arab citizen through counter-cultures and counter-information media and through grilling, exploitation, and repression to which they are exposed.

He said that we in Jamahiriyah believe that there is a real train of death swallowing the Arab homeland country by country and that this train wants to end all our existence and wants us to accept living like the Red Indians.

He said that by mobilizing, arming and training the people, men and women in Libya, Syria, the Palestinian camps, Lebanon and Cairo are bound to turn every house into a trench of resistance. He pointed out that, unfortunately, long after the Zionist storming of Lebanon the leaderships and organizations maintain the same behavior and the same attitudes as if nothing had happened in Lebanon. He said that we in Jamahiriyah, and all those who share with us this conviction, are determined to find an historic solution. As for those who do not share this conviction, they will repeat the failure and will practice the failure. In years to come we will find another earthquake taking place somewhere other than in Beirut.

He explained that the Arabs now have surrendered and have recognized the enemy in Fes. He stressed that we believe that our existence conflicts with the Zionist existence. It is impossible for the two nationalities to exist -- either an Arab nationality or a racist nationality. Staff Maj Jallud denounced the Fes plan. He stressed that it is a capitulationist plan through which Arab reaction gave cover to the entry of Israeli forces into Lebanon.

Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud stressed that the Lebanese link is one of the links of the Zionist train of death designed to annex and to swallow other Arab countries. He pointed out that the problem is not the Palestinian question. Subsequently, we call for the commencement of a real resistance and war in Lebanon. He said we are prepared to back the popular resistance in Lebanon with all the power we have to fight the Israelis. He added that every Muslim, every progressive person, every unionist, and every patriot, and even the bourgeoise must fight the Zionist enemy.

Staff Maj Jallud noted that despite the end of As-Sadat who betrayed Arab cause, the treacherous Camp David accords, which he signed, still exist in Egypt. Subsequently, Egypt is still capitulating and tied to these humiliating agreements. He called on the Egyptian people to get rid of the fact that they are living in the shadow of the Camp David accords and to rebel against them and to rid Egypt of Zionist and imperialist ties and to resist the Jews who soiled the land of Egypt.

BRIEFS

AL-'UBAYDI MEETS INDIAN ENVOY -- Tripoli, Rabi Thani 2, Jan 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The secretary of the Foreign Liaison Bureau met here this morning with Indian Prime Minister Gandhi's special envoy and discussed with him means of coordination with the Jamahiriyah to prepare for the forthcoming non-aligned seventh summit. They also reviewed and discussed a number of issues related to the current world situation and means to confront imperialist schemes as well as the international economic situation and the developing countries' conditions. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1820 GMT 16 Jan 83 LD]

ETHIOPIA

TEXT OF ERITREAN FRONTS' MERGER AGREEMENT

PM141407 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 11 Jan 83 p 26

["Text" of the merger agreement signed by Eritrean factions in Jidda on 10 January]

[Text] Out of faith in the inevitable unity of the Eritrean revolution's factions in fulfillment of the definite wishes of the mature Eritrean masses at home and abroad, having benefited from the past numerous unity experiments of the Eritrean factions, and to achieve full independence for Eritrea through peaceful means or armed struggle, the Eritrean Liberation Front (Revolutionary Council), the Eritrean Liberation Front (Popular Liberation Forces), and the Eritrean Liberation Front -- Popular Liberation Forces (Revolutionary Committee) agree:

1. To merge the three factions into one organization with one program and one constitution. The merger shall include all establishments of the three factions.

2. This merger shall be completed within a maximum of 6 months from the date of this agreement.

3. Each faction shall hold a conference attended by its cadres and members to elect a leadership council authorized to complete the merger process in accordance with the numbers stated in Clause 7.

4. After the election of the three leadership councils, all elected members of these councils shall hold an important conference to complete the merger into one national organization under the name of the Eritrean Liberation Front or any other name chosen by the national council. This council also shall:

   A. Elect an executive committee for the unified organization from its own members.
   B. Draw up the political and organizational program and unified constitution.

5. When the conference completes its task, all its members shall become members of the national council.

6. The signatories emphasize that it is absolutely forbidden to set up any sectarian, partisan, religious, or tribal blocs within the organization and that everyone's loyalty must be to the Eritrean revolution.

7. It has been agreed that the national council shall consist of 73 members:

   A. Twentyseven members for the Eritrean Liberation Front (Revolutionary Council).
   B. Twentyseven members for the Eritrean Liberation Front (Popular Liberation Forces).
   C. Nineteem members for the Eritrean Liberation Front -- Popular Liberation Forces (Revolutionary Committee).

8. The three sides affirm that this agreement is considered a positive step toward comprehensive unity and they urge the People's Front to join the march in fulfillment of the Eritrean people's wishes.

This agreement was reached on 23 December 1982 with the help and efforts of the friends of the Eritrean revolution.

[Signed] Abu Bakr Mohamed Jama, chief of the Executive Bureau of the Revolutionary Committee of the Popular Liberation Forces; 'Abdallah Idris Mohamed, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front; and Osman Saleh Sabeh, chairman of the Executive Committee and Central Council of the Popular Liberation Forces

Front Chairman Comments

GF151710 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 11 Jan 83 p 1

[Report on statement by 'Abdallah Idris, chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front, to AL-MADINAH correspondent Ahmad Diyab in Jidda -- date not given]

[Excerpts] The three Eritrean revolution factions yesterday announced their merger into one organization and according to a program and constitution that unify all the organs of the three organizations.

'Abdallah Idris, chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front, told AL-MADINAH that this unity was achieved at the wish of the three factions and as a result of efforts by the fraternal countries, foremost of which is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He said: We will meet with [Saudi] officials to thank them and to brief them on the requirements of the coming stage.

The merger communique called on the People's Liberation Front to joint this agreement. The People's Front is the only front that did not sign the agreement. There are serious attempts to convince this front to sign the agreement. The leaders of the three factions of the Eritrean revolution expressed gratitude to the Saudi Government for patronizing the meeting and for its followup on the developments and contacts and for obviating the difficulties.

TIGRE LIBERATION FRONT REPORTS BATTLE SUCCESSES

EA161604 (Clandestine) Voice of Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Tigre -- Continuing with its resolve to foil the Dergue's planned onslaught on Tigre and to make preemptive strikes, the heroic Tigre People's Liberation Front on 9 January attacked and completely destroyed the enemy force in Wekro, capital of Kilte Awlalo Province, and took control of the town for 24 hours.

During this successful attack in Wekro on two battlions and more than 200 government agents and police, 305 enemy soldiers were killed, 50 were wounded, and 189 were captured. Among the dead enemy soldiers and officers was the commander of the 22d "Flame" Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel (Reda Wedaju).

The heroic fighters of the Tigre People's Liberation Front also captured 600 assorted weapons, 3 mortars, 1 Browning machine gun, 1 14.5-mm antiaircraft weapon, 17 bren guns, 3 RPG-7's, 8 guns, 5 military vehicles, 3 generators, 3 water pumps, 4 motor bikes, and other military equipment. Two trucks also were set on fire. They also distributed to the people more than 5,000 quintals of grain which was stored in the camps and freed 31 people who were jailed in the fascist Dergue's prisons.

After this successful military operation, more than 100 soldiers were killed or wounded and one tank was destroyed when the enemy brought up reinforcements, supported by MiG fighter planes, from Mekele to save the force attacked in Wekro. In an act of revenge following its defeat, the enemy bombed the countryside, killing three peasants, injuring three others, and destroying a lot of property.

TANZANIA

NYERERE, PRC PREMIER END TALKS, VISIT ARUSHA

EA141220 Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 1000 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] The Chinese premier, Ndugu Zhao Ziyang, arrived in Arusha this afternoon for a 2-day tour of the region. The Chinese premier is accompanied by his host, Mwalimu Nyerere and Foreign Minister Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim.

Before he left for Arusha this morning, the Chinese leader held a final session of official talks with President Nyerere. The talks began yesterday and ended at Ilulu [State House] early today. No statement was issued at the end of the talks but senior government officials said the talks covered bilateral cooperation and international issues.

Talks Described

EA151542 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 0400 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Arusha -- The foreign affairs minister, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim, has said China has expressed its readiness to assist Tanzania in the rehabilitation of her economy. Ndugu Salim told newsmen in Arusha yesterday that this was made clear during talks between the two delegations led by President Nyerere and the visiting prime minister, Ndugu Zhao Ziyang. The talks started in Dar es Salaam on Thursday and continued in Arusha yesterday.

According to Ndugu Salim, Ndugu Zhao, who leaves Arusha this morning for Nairobi, expressed his country's understanding and sympathy for Tanzania's problems and the measures being taken to end them.

The foreign minister said: The two sides had underscored the necessity to extend and consolidate the areas of cooperation between the two countries. During the talks, President Nyerere briefed Ndugu Zhao on efforts being made to rehabilitate the economy through the (?factual) adjustment plans as well as the areas of difficulty being faced.

Ndugu Salim said the two sides had also discussed the need to start joint ventures between the two countries, adding that specific and [words indistinct] will be completed soon.

The two leaders also discussed international affairs including the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the problem of Kampuchea.

The Chinese leader arrived in Dar es Salaam last Tuesday for a 5-day official visit to Tanzania during which he inspected various projects financed by the Chinese Government both in the mainland and isles.

BENIN

FRANCE'S PRESIDENT MITTERRAND VISITS 15-17 JAN

Arrives in Cotonou

NC151721 Paris AFP in English 1705 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] Cotonou, Jan 15 (AFP) -- French President Francois Mitterrand received a 21-gun salute here today as he stepped down from his special jetliner at Cotonou airport in the capital of Benin Republic, to start the second leg of his third official visit to Africa. Mr Mitterrand, who flew in from Lome, capital of neighbouring Togo, was met by Beninese President Mathieu Kerekou. The two leaders later drove off to Mr Mitterrand's guest residence on the other side of town.

Later tonight, the French president and his wife were to attend a cultural show at the friendship stadium here. Bilateral talks start tomorrow. This is the first time a French president has visited Benin since 1960, when it became independent from France under the name of Dahomey.

Stresses Friendship, Solidarity

PA160400 Paris AFP in English 0353 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Cotnou, Jan 16 (AFP) -- Helping Third World countries to develop should be a matter of "intelligence and a sense of duty" for advanced nations, French President Francois Mitterrand urged here Saturday night. He was speaking to some 30,000 people in the friendship stadium shortly after his arrival in Benin for a 2-day official visit. Mr Mitterrand is on his third African tour since becoming president. It is the first time a French head of state has been to the west African state since its independence from France in 1960 under the name of Dahomey.

Mr Mitterrand spoke warmly of Franco-Benin friendship, and gave this assurance: "France has not forgotten you, it is at your side to fight for peace and development. Over and above friendship, I bring you a message of solidarity."

Supporting the national sovereignty of African states, Mr Mitterrand said: "Let us keep watch everywhere to ensure independence, in respect for the friendships each one is entitled to choose, in respect for (their) preferences." Marxism-Leninism was declared Benin's official ideology in 1974, 2 years after Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Mathieu Kerekou seized power in an army coup supported by the gendarmerie. Key companies were nationalized and relations with France deteriorated, leading to suspension of French subsidies and loans and abandonment of military cooperation. Contacts and development aid were revived in 1979. Mr Mitterrand commented last night: "Development, peace and freedom are the clear objectives we shall achieve and defend together, thanks to the renewed friendship between our two peoples."

President Kerekou hailed the French head of state as "a strenuous defender of the ideals of justice, freedom and social progress." His visit was both nationally and internationally an historical event, Colonel Kerekou said. As the inheritor of revolutionary traditions, France was justified in cooperation as a basis of mutual respect with revolutionary Benin, the African leader said.

After the speeches, a little girl gave both presidents a red scarf, symbolizing Benin's revolutionary struggle.

Warns Against Interference in Chad

AB170834 Paris AFP in French 0726 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Cotonou, 17 Jan (AFP) -- President Mitterrand gave a serious warning against the threat of foreign intervention -- by the superpowers or neighboring countries -- if the Chadian conflict is allowed to be prolonged and worsens. He gave this warning on Sunday evening in Cotonou.

Responding to the speech by Benin President Mathieu Kerekou after an official dinner party to mark the end of his visit, Mr Mitterrand recalled at length the Chadian conflict and said in particular: "We do not want this conflict to worsen gradually, as should be feared, to the point that the superpowers, without forgetting the neighboring powers, engage themselves on a deeply mined field."

"I am warning African countries like yours," he went on, "against the consequences of such events." He then reaffirmed France's desire "to see Chad escape these external inferences "and to liberate itself from any form of foreign domination" so that "it can solve its own problems through democratic means."

Earlier, Colonel Kerekou had affirmed his "conviction that a durable peace requires a national reconciliation" in Chad and should involve "all the sons of this country." The former transitional National Union Government president, Goukouni Oueddei, is fighting in the north of the country with Libyan support against Hissein Habre, who has seized power in Ndjamena.

Two weeks before his official visit to Morocco, Mr Mitterrand recalled the French stand on the Western Sahara conflict: self-determination for the Saharan people (?through) a referendum under international supervision. The French president was responding directly to the call by the Beninese head of state -- one of the leading supporters of the SDAR -- to intervene so that the Moroccan ruler can agree to direct negotiations between the SDAR and Morocco. "France," he said, "can largely contribute to direct negotiation between Morocco and the SDAR."

The third issue on which there were divergent views between France and Benin was the Middle East. To Mr Kerekou, who had just spoken against "the genocide committed by the Zionist state in Lebanon," Mr Mitterrand replied: "We condemned the occupation of Lebanon just as how we condemn the occupation of any country by another," citing Cambodia and Afghanistan. But, contrary to Colonel Kerekou, who mentioned the PLO as the "only representative of the Palestinian people," the French President recalled France's stand, which recognizes Israel's right to existence and the right of the Palestinian people to a fatherland.

Despite these divergent views on some current conflicts, the two heads of state stressed their "common political" desire to increase bilateral cooperation and to work together to achieve more equitable north-south economic relations.

Discusses Third World Interests

LD160844 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Francois Mitterrand celebrated the Franco-Benin reunion in Cotonou yesterday. Mitterrand once again advocated the defense of Third World interests. Peace, development and cooperation were the main themes of his Gaullian speech.

[Begin recording] Everywhere, in Mexico, Cancun, Ottawa, Paris, Versailles, Kinshasa, and today again in Cotonou, I appeal to the intelligence, and to the sense of duty of advanced countries. Without respite, on behalf of France, I shall continue to defend your interests and those of all our African friends in accordance with your own wishes. For if we intend to be on your side we do not wish to substitute our wishes for your decisions ever. [end recording]

Francois Mitterrand will start the day by laying a wreath on Cotonou's martyr's monument, a stela erected in honor of the victims of Bob Donar's mercenaries. Then the president will have a working luncheon with Colonel Kerekou. Tomorrow Mr Mitterrand will fly to Gabon, the last leg of his African tour.

Ends Visit, Stresses Noninterference

PA170145 Paris AFP in English 0116 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] Cotonou, Jan 17 (AFP) -- France plays no part in the internal politics of countries it has diplomatic relations with, President Francois Mitterrand said here Sunday night at a press conference marking the end of an official 48-hour visit to Benin. He had been asked about respect for human rights in Africa, where he is on his third tour since becoming president. The questioner referred to an Amnesty International report that there were 50 political prisoners in Benin, which officially adopted Marxism-Leninism as its ideology in 1974.

"The problem of regimes, of internal political systems, do not fall within the competence of other countries," Mr Mitterrand responded. "We are talking here to a country, a state, to sovereign and independent leaders. That independence is dear to them, and equally so to me."

Mr Mitterrand went on: "I do not come to the countries I visit, in the name of France, to say where the truth lies in the conduct of internal affairs in those countries. There are a certain number of rules, those of civilization, that each power should put into effect, when it has overcome the difficulties inherent in founding a state," the president noted. He added: "Of course, each time I can intervene as president of France, and also in my personal capacity, to correct such an such a situation, I do so."

Mr Mitterrand said he had come to Benin with the firm intention of restoring harmony to bilateral relations. (They soured after the move to Marxism-Leninism here, with nationalizations provoking suspension of French aid and subsidies and cancellation of military cooperation.)

His talks with Benin's leader Lt Col Mathieu Kerekou established that they were on the same wavelength, Mr Mitterrand said. Rural development aid would now be stepped up, with emphasis on achieving self-sufficiency in food for the west African state. (A French spokesman said projects would also include cotton-growing in the Zou Valley, rehabilitation of palm-oil plantations and possible extension of the existing railway to Niger.

Mr Mitterrand summed up the atmosphere of his visit: "France has got rid of the sequels of colonialism, retaining only the best of the period when we were completely together."

Radio Reports Mitterrand Statements

AB170816 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] "I have come to Cotonou to restore the harmony of the relations between France and Benin."

This was said by Francois Mitterrand a short while ago during his press conference during which he touched on various topics, such as the world economic crisis, the monetary disorder, inflation, the problems of security and other issues. Throughout his press conference, President Mitterrand reaffirmed his country's willingness to satisfy the aspirations of developing countries and to give them their true place on the international scene. This reaffirmed willingness is based on the fundamental principles of the foreign policies of socialist France, namely, the need for the industrialized countries to consider the developing countries as full partners, the need to admit that there is an indispensable complementarity -- therefore the need for dialogue — between industrialized and developing countries and the need for the rich countries to help the Third World countries to solve their problems without any ulterior motive.

On security and the French military presence in Africa, Mr Mitterrand said that France has contracted some obligations which have not been renounced, but added that France is not a policeman for Africa's peace and security.

On relations between France and Africa, President Mitterrand described them as good and confident, adding that these relations are multiple and fertile.

It is worth recalling that before this conference, the French and Beninese delegations attended a working luncheon at the Aledjo Hotel PLM, followed by private talks between the two heads of state -- Mitterrand and Kerekou. Later in the morning, at the Abomey-Calavi University campus, the French president was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the Benin national university. During his visit to this institution of higher learning, Mr Mitterrand was accompanied to the university campus by Mathieu Kerekou, our great comrade at arms. Speaking on this occasion, the French president expressed his joy and emotion at the honor done him by awarding him this degree. He said that the message he brought with him was that of the solidarity of the two countries in a world in difficulty. He paid tribute to French and Beninese university officials and also affirmed his country's decision to contribute to the development of Benin in the field of national education and training.

GHANA

TIES WITH SOVIETS HAILED ON ANNIVERSARY

AB151425 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Text] The charge d'affaires of Ghana's Embassy in Moscow, Charles Vandyke, has emphasized that Ghana views the Soviet Union as a great ally in the struggle against colonialism and imperialism in Africa. He was speaking at a public forum in the Soviet capital to mark the 25 anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ghana and the Soviet Union. He said he is confident that bilateral cooperation between them in the economic and cultural fields will continue to grow.

The first deputy chairman of the board of the Soviet Association of Friendship with African Peoples [as heard], (?Bardeleiv Migvedev) was pleased with the level of friendship and mutual understanding between Ghana and the Soviet Union. He added that such relations will be for the good of their peoples and in the interest of international security, social progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Government newspaper ISVESTIYA has published an article in connection with the anniversary. Under the heading, "Ghana Builds a New Life," the paper stressed that Ghana is one of the first in tropical Africa to win independence and appreciated the revolutionary transformations carried out in the country under the guidance of Dr Kwame Nkrumah, an outstanding leader of the national liberation movement.

It observed that the new revolutionary authorities in Ghana have promised to exert great efforts to eliminate economic difficulties and social sores adding that a new comprehensive program to raise the people's standard of living is being implemented. People's committees for defending the revolution have become one of the most active motive forces in conducting social reforms in Ghana. They make a weighty contribution to Ghana's economic progress and to combating the plunderers of state properties and other antisocial elements. ISVESTIYA noted that the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has won high prestige because of its foreign policy. It stands for peace and international detente against imperialism, neocolonialism and racism. The paper added that Soviet-Ghanaian relations are developing for the benefit of the two nations.

ASAMOAH SAYS USSR PROVIDES INSPIRATION

AB160630 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Ghana has reaffirmed its belief in the interdependence of all countries. This is contained in a speech read for the secretary for foreign affairs, De Obed Asamoah, at a function in Accra marking the 26 years of diplomatic relations between Ghana and the Soviet Union.

He said Ghana shares the Soviet ideals of universal peace, friendship and cooperation among all peoples. In this regard, it will work conscientiously with the Soviet Union for the attainment of a world where there would be no more wars and where there will be true fraternity and equality among peoples in conditions of freedom, progress and prosperity. Dr Asamoah said Ghana draws much inspiration from the Soviet Union at this crucial moment when the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] seeks to transform an exploitative system into an egalitarian one, where the ordinary man will be saved from degradation, oppression and exploitation. He praised the Soviet Union's stand against colonialism, exploitation, and imperialism. He expressed confidence that Tanzania and Namibia will gain their freedom through material help and training provided by the Soviets.

The Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Anatoliy Ivanstov, expressed satisfaction at the cordial relations that have existed between the two countries and hoped these will be strengthened.

MALI

TRAORE TO VISIT NIGERIA 23-26 FEBRUARY

AB161336 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] The president of the republic will pay an official visit to Nigeria from 23 to 26 February. This visit was confirmed this week by the ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria following his audience with the head of state. It will be recalled that President Shehu Shagari paid an official visit to Mali on 25 May 1981 during which he stated and I quote: "Between Mali and Nigeria, there is no difference." The forthcoming trip of General Moussa Traore to Nigeria will be an opportunity to revitalize the relations of economic cooperation already existing between our two countries.

UDPM NATIONAL COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY SESSION ENDS

AB141656 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] The second extraordinary session of the National Council ended yesterday at the People's Hall with the adoption of a general resolution.

This extraordinary session of the National Council, which lasted 3 days, discussed the economic issues of Mali and at its end adopted important recommendations and courageous decisions. The National Council, among other things, invited the BECI [expansion unknown] and the government to undertake the necessary action at all levels to reduce the sumptuous spending occasioned by social ceremonies such as weddings, christenings and to improve performance in all the offices and all working sites by hard work, discipline, and rational utilization of the continuous workday.

Aware of the fact that the rural area is the driving force of our development, the National Council recommended that efforts should continue to create village [word indistinct] with the participation of the population and the intensification of the reforestation policy, the continuation of efforts for the urgent preservation of our capital through, among other things, the establishment of hydropastoral programs and cattle management. Considering the reocurrence of drought in the fifth, sixth and seventh regions, the National Council called on the government to redouble efforts to preserve the life of the population and cattle of those agropastoral regions.

As regards national construction, the National Council recommended the rapid implementation of the policy on the promotion of small- and medium-scale enterprises in order to create new jobs. In the field of education, the council commended the actions of the parents' and teachers' associations of such democratic organizations as the National Youth Movement of Mali, the National Union of Malian Women and the Malian Trade Union Movement within the framework of the development of basic education. It also recommended the strengthening of ruralization activities, the intensification of teaching in national languages, the expansion of basic education and better planning for training in order to meet the national economic needs.

Employment in Mali was one of the main points on which a decision was made. In this connection, the National Council, in view of the multiplicity of public servants, called on the government to facilitate and to encourage the departure of public servants who wish to engage in other productive activities and strictly apply the provisions concerning the retirement of those who have reached retirement age as well as the general staff rules and regulations regarding discipline in particular or [words indistinct]. It was also recommended that incentive measures be taken to enable the new graduates to settle in the private sector, in the rural areas, in craftsmanship, and in the small- and medium-scale enterprises.

In the field of health, the National Council called on the government to give special attention by providing the population with adequate health training and drugs essential to [word indistinct] geographical, and economic conditions. In the face of the difficult situation of the national corporations, the National Council invited the government to study the improvement of the parastatals or their transformation in order to enable them to meet actual [word indistinct].

Important decisions have emerged from this second extraordinary session of the UDPM [Democratic Union of the Malian People's] National Council. But as the secretary general of the party said, it does not suffice to make decisions; what is most important is to ensure their application. [Words indistinct], to ensure the attainment of the objects, we must exercise greater vigilance and firmness. On his part, General Moussa Traore yesterday said in his closing speech that, as the leader, he will not tolerate any negligence, since what is involved is the safeguarding of the credibility of the Malian state, and the very future of our country.

Traore Speech

AB141951 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Speech delivered by General Moussa Traore at the end of the extraordinary session of the Democratic Union of Malian People's National Council held in Bamako on 14 January -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Distinguished delegates, Your Excellencies: Two days ago when I opened the second session of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] National Council, I stressed that the holding of this session showed the special attention that the party and government accord to the economic problems of our country and shows our deep concern in the face of the size of this problem. The deep reflection and the profound and comprehensive analysis which we have engaged in during these 3 days of discussion have further attested to this interest and this concern. I also stressed that our people are expecting from this meeting lucid, courageous, and bold decisions and measures that will enable us to rapidly realize our fundamental objective: economic and financial recovery. The resolutions that have sanctioned our deliberations, ladies and gentlemen, have responded to the exigencies of the situation because you wished to assume your responsibilities and you have shown realism, clearsightedness, and rigor.

Distinguished delegates, you will allow me at this juncture, in the light of the content of our resolutions, to emphasize a number of points. First, our economy is at a standstill; the serious world crisis has been rightly underlined, but we took care not to hide behind this crisis or to blame it for all our problems and all our ills. We proceeded to make an objective criticism of the policies and programs adopted in the various economic sectors and we were thus able to realize the true situation. This is very important, first and foremost for ourselves, for it allows us to assess clearly our share of responsibility in the crisis, and at the same time to see what we should do to surmount it.

Furthermore, as far as the 5-year plan is concerned, we also discussed its financing. While expressing satisfaction with the positive results of the recent donors conference, we stressed -- and rightly so -- the very special importance of local financing and the absolute need to raise immediately our share of the financing for obvious reasons which we do not need to detail. Despite the present difficulties and despite our many responsibilities and constraints, we should do everything to bring the domestic share of the financing to a level that is compatible with the volume of our requirements, with our capacity and with our dignity by realizing more savings at all levels. Still on the plan, we should also remember the imperative need to observe the guidelines, to take into account the programming of the various departments, and to better coordinate the actions taken at the level of the sections with those taken at the level of the plan.

[Words indistinct] regarding the economic and financial program whose importance does not escape anyone, the efforts undertaken should be pursued in order to ensure its proper implementation. The performance criteria adopted in this program are within the reach of our economy. To obtain all the objectives, we must exercise greater vigilance, rigor, and firmness.

In this general crisis, only national efforts remain basically capable of attenuating the imbalance of our economy. The increase of production and productivity, the improvement of management of public affairs, and recovery of our state sector will be the main areas of our internal efforts. In other words, external aid can be nothing but a help. In general, we must stimulate and organize the great productive force of our people by channeling them towards precise development sectors and objectives that are consonant with its needs. We must also do away with unprofitable and inefficient economic structures, especially at the level of our state sector, and with the excessive obstruction of the public service, of the sources of financial imbalance and stagnation.

Finally, most of all, we will have to effect a change of mentality by making everyone understand that training should not necessarily lead slowly to employment in the public service. What is more, we will have to convince the people through concrete examples that the instruction received at school can probably be put to better use and be better rewarded elsewhere than in the public sector and that individual and collective prosperity depend on the initiative and efforts of each individual. To stimulate, to encourage and to reward creative private initiative while developing public, semipublic and cooperative structures should be our immediate objective.

As the leader of this country, it is clear that I will not tolerate any laxity, no culpable negligence or failure of duty, for what is involved is the credibility of the Malian state and the very future of our country. As for you, ladies and gentlemen, it will be your responsibility to ensure the wide circulation of these resolutions among our militants and to achieve their full acceptance of the contents so that they may constantly guide their initiatives, their efforts and their sacrifices. I have no doubt that the patriotism of the militants and their awareness of the current development problems will guarantee the implementation of or resolutions in national unity and harmony. The permanent preparedness of the militants and leaders of the party is the best guarantee of the success of the struggle which we have embarked on against the extremely unfavorable international situation and against a natural, hostile and trying environment. We must all battle on all fronts with all our strength.

Distinguished delegates, we have all understood and agreed that to remove the natural and histroic constraints that impede our forward march towards economic development and social progress, we must exercise greater austerity, more strictness, and greater efficiency in the utilization and management of our natural and human resources. In this connection, we should adopt two guiding principles: We should choose the right man for the right position and render profitable our economic structures through balanced management.

Distinguished delegates, while bidding you farewell and wishing you a safe return to your homes, I declare closed the second extraordinary session of the UDPM National Council. Long live the UDPM. Long live Mali.

NIGERIA

GOVERNMENT UNHAPPY WITH U.S. POSITION REVERSAL

AB141513 Lagos NAN in English 1507 GMT 14 Jan 83

[By Adewale Fatona]

[Text] Harare, Jan. 14 (NAN) -- Nigeria is not happy with the U.S. Administration's viewpoint which sees Africa, particularly the southern African sub-continent, in terms of East/West confrontation, southern African sub-conference was told in Harare yesterday.

Presenting Nigeria's position in a paper at a closed session on South Africa, Nigeria's minister of state for external affairs, Alhaji Bello Kirfi, accused the Reagan administration of reversing the understanding which the OAU had reached with the preceding Carter administration that America should see the southern Africa situation in their true African context.

Alhaji Bello said that U.S. response to the military, political and economical situations in southern Africa, particularly South Africa, had been very insensitive to the view-point of Africa and the OAU.

The United States of America and her Western allies have consistently frustrated the call of the international community for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa.

Even when the leaders of the independent countries in southern Africa and the Black majority in South Africa have indicated their preparedness to make sacrifices, the West insists that sanctions will not work, he said.

The minister said that from the volume of South Africa's trade with the United States and other Western powers, it was clear that South Africa was extremely vulnerable to comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions.

He referred to the recent IMF loan to the Pretoria regime as another attempt to stiffen South Africa in its stubbornness over its internal situation and the Namibian issue.

Alhaji Bello said that Nigeria fully supported the concept of sanctions and had worked towards the goal set by the United Nations and its special committee against apartheid. He recalled the efforts which Nigeria had been making to secure a peaceful political change in southern Africa and pledged that it would never leave any avenue unexplored in the struggle against the apartheid system in South Africa.

TOGO

FRANCE'S MITTERRAND ADDRESSES RALLY 14 JANUARY

AB160700 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Speech by French President Francois Mitterrand at a reception in his honor at rally of the Togolese People headquarters in Lome on 14 January -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr President, a new trip has now brought me to an Africa. Representing France, I am now visiting with pleasure and feeling because I have the opportunity to meet with friends with whom I share natural and common views as well as the same concerns and hopes. [applause] I thank you for your warm welcome which transcends the hospitality, kindness, and the open mindedness of the Togolese people. [applause] Truthfully speaking, you know that by receiving the president of the French Republic, you are welcoming the messenger of a friendly country. I am happy to feel honored by the opportunity given me to reaffirm this friendship to the founding president of the RPT, [Rally of the Togolese People] and to its (?elites). In fact, ladies and gentlemen, you are the support and founders of a country that understood the need for unity and a country that ensures its own internal stability and international credibility. When I recall your efforts to build unity, I think of the difficulties and the peculiarities of the African Continent and the ethnic divisions. You have consolidated national unity without losing your African personality. In Europe, we do not always realize the difficulty of the task. I take this opportunity to restate to you my desire to see France contribute to the security of its friends on the understanding that these friends make their requests clearly, because if France remains present in Africa, [words indistinct]. There is the need, therefore, for an exchange of views and for an association to ensure peace, economic development, and the future of millions of men yearning for better food, better health, and better education. These are the ideals that Togo is pursuing with zeal by participating in promoting ECOWAS, which you have just recalled, Mr President.

You have fulfilled the enormous needs of the people to accept and to share their wealth with their neighbors with whom they have natural and identical interests and similar philosophies and culture. It is clear that for a necessary association among states, we must begin at the regional level. We -- Africans as well as Europeans -- are conscious of the major competition [words indistinct] from Central America to Southeast Asia. Yes, we are aware of it as it is affecting the world. This rivalry is even more dangerous as it is happening at a time when no one is spared by the serious economic crisis. Whatever the orientations chosen and the methods applied, we are still (?experiencing) a fall in production, employment, domestic inflation, and the inability to meet external financial commitments. The weakest countries, which often placed their only hopes on rapid development and made immense sacrifices, are the first to be hit by the crisis. But I reaffirm once again that there is no solution for anyone other than necessary mutual assistance. I am convinced that solidarity uniting those countries which are most affected with those which have been able to accumulate wealth can and should enable the weaker ones to live better. I reaffirm my personal and deep conviction that the most industrialized countries must further increase their assistance.

This continent, as you know, has a privileged place in French attitudes and cooperation. It is with very strong feelings deeply shared by my countrymen that we note that between France and Sub-Sahara Africa -- without naturally foregetting the rest of Africa, which is also dear to us -- there is a clear similarity of interests and a natural common destiny and culture. This is rooted in geography and history. We must be happy and reassured to note that most of our European partners now recognize this feeling of common responsibility. [words indistinct] of the European community fulfills our hopes. We only have to mention the name of your city -- Lome -- to recall some of the great actions of solidarity between Europeans and Africans, a solidarity which should henceforth be strengthened. It must be clear to all that this priority of French policy will remain unshakable and it goes without saying that French-speaking Africa, which listens to us when we talk or sing -- and I am proud of it -- in our common language, will remain at the forefront of the my country's commitments. Togo should know that in its task of economic and social development, it can reply on the maintenance of French aid which will not be reduced [applause] and we have discussed some of the essential issues. This aid will be increased. It was decided during recent discussions that the technical participation of French experts will be deployed and can centrtaed in areas to take into account the particular needs of Togo, so that your laudable efforts to equip yourselves during the last few years, in particular, do not become inefficient and thus constrain your situation, which I have just described as the (?fluctations) of the international crisis. This commitment will be carried out and the French ministers present here, Claude Cheysson and Christian Nucci, will particularly see to this [applause]

Mr President, you have just referred to some hotbeds currently prevailing on the African Continent which are causing national and personal tragedies. I would like to comment on the issues of Southern Africa and Namibia, you know, and everybody here must know, that in this regard, France is playing an important role and is at the forefront of all the nations of the world as well as the ad hoc group which is charged with paving the way for true independence and peace in that part of the world. We have constantly renewed this search for peace and we believe -- like you -- that it is not possible for internal social segregation and a state of war to continue to exist, knowing full well that the longer a local or regional conflict lasts, the greater the risk for the superpowers to get involved and develop it into an international issue. [passage indistinct] in my mind, nothing should be spared to achieve a wise and balanced peace in that part of the world. I will make the same recommendations if the OAU faces a crisis during the next few years, if in fact the people and their states are quarreling and if internal peace does not succeed in dominating relations between the peoples.

I have constantly said this and I repeated it in Kinshasa when we had the pleasure to meet recently. France firmly wants the unity of your African organization to be preserved. This is necessary for dialogue and progress so that concord and harmony overcome differing ambitions. I am repeating this desire for the maintenance of the OAU here and I have confidence in the sense of responsibility of the heads of state who will decide upon this.

Holds Press Conference 15 Jan

AB161126 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] At the end of his visit to Togo and a few hours before his departure for the People's republic of Benin, the French president, Francois Mitterrand, gave a news conference at the party building. Issues relating to French-Togolese cooperation dominated this news conference. President Mitterrand described as promising the talks he held during these 48 hours with the Togolese leaders and gave assurances that the extremely solid friendship and cooperation between our two countries would be strengthened. The French president said he was impressed by the popular and unique activities arranged for his visit and stressed the warm welcome given him by the Togolese leaders.

Asked about France's aid to Third World countries and to Africa in particular, Mr Mitterrand noted that France devotes most of its aid to African and Caribbean countries, but, he observed, his country cannot alone serve as a substitute for a weak industrial world. Let us listen to the French head of state as he explained his concept of cooperation as well as his efforts in this regard:

[Begin recording] [Mitterrand] French-Togolese cooperation is working well. It has been so for a long time. It is true that the international crisis is becoming more and more unbearable for a number of countries, in particular the weak ones. Prices for agricultural raw materials like coffee and cocoa have been drastically slashed by more than half in a year. Of course, it will be very difficult for these countries to map out their development on a certain basis. It was the same for mineral raw materials like phosphate, whose price has fallen so much that Franch has been requested to increase its aid as much as possible. We have been doing this when we are in a position to do so, especially in the areas which seem the most useful to us and by mutual agreement. My answer to your question is the one I gave earlier, which is to tackle the problem at its root. This means that all industrial countries must, as soon as possible, examine the means to support raw material prices. It is better to buy them at their correct prices than to buy them at speculated prices and later have to distribute aid, which is always insufficient. Togo has practically achieved self-sufficiency in food because of its traditional agricultural policy, the conscience of its farmers, and the diversity of its products. In any case, it has been achieved and this is commendable. This country, nevertheless, needs a lot of assistance in order to equip itself and ensure its development.

I noted during the past few years that a certain amount of progress has been made concerning the understanding of the so-called countries of the north, or the industrialized countries, which seemed to give a new impetus to the budget of the IMF. France asked for the doubling of this budget. The amount might not reach that target, but a lot will be achieved in the forthcoming years. Finally, we are trying to revive great international institutions like the World Bank so they can participate in the development of energy sources and their transformation. This famous dialogue, which at the moment is seriously stalled, must resume as soon as possible in the interests of all -- it is in the interest of the south as well as the north.

[Question by an unidentified reporter] Mr President, before your departure, can you present to the Togolese press an initial balance-sheet of your visit and also tell us your impressions on what you were able to see here.

[Answer] I have been sharing my impressions with all the visitors that accompanied me and who have been watching a series of public ceremonies by the popular masses since the day before yesterday. These impressions were very extraordinary and sometimes very impressive, taking into account the fact that Togo is not a large country and thus does not have a large population. I noticed truly massive attendance at each event and at each time of the day. In addition, I must note the warmth of the welcome given me by the authorities of this country, in particular by the president of the Togolese Republic. I can say that the exchange of views that took place served as the background to my visit. Allow me to say that these talks are promising. We can say that the friendship and the cooperation are extremely solid and should be further strengthened.

[Question] Mr President, like President Eyadema, you said that by assisting developing countries, the developed countries are assisting themselves. In your struggle to achieve this policy, one has the impression that France is alone. How can this effort be crowned by positive results in favor of the African countries?

[Answer] Let us be fair. France is very often alone. The European Community very often has some (?reservations) toward it. But you will find in a country like this one many initiatives, including a number of investments which come from countries other than France. It is true that in the international arena, France is firmly defending the cause of the (?weak) and I have just explained this to you. Surely, France cannot alone substitute itself for the weak industrial world. This is why it is forced to reassess its strength because it is also experiencing the effects of the world crisis. Our assistance is especially evident in French-speaking Africa and also some other English-speaking, Spanish-speaking, and Portuguese-speaking countries -- I mean all the countries I have so far visited, which are the most needy and have seen that France understands their poroblems and is ready to contribute to their solution. Our assistance also goes to the Caribbean countries. A large part of our effort is directed toward the African and Caribbean countries. It is our hope that no part of the globe will be neglected, but in this area, international cooperation is the answer. If we have developed our exchanges everywhere in the world, this does not mean that we should not devote the major part of our efforts to African and Caribbean countries.

[Question] Mr President, your delegation seems to have appreciated Togo's request for an increase in French aid to rural development to enable the country to maintain its self-sufficiency in food. Does this mean that France, within its cooperation policy, will henceforth give priority to the rural sector rather than big industrial and commercial projects?

[Answer] We do not make arbitrary judgements. Sometimes we will support some big industrial projects or some infrastructure projects which are necessary. But is it true that the priority aim for self-sufficiency in food solves several problems because the people who produce more, and are able to sell their products which have exceeded their domestic consumption, have the means to equip themselves. I have earlier said that Togo has a great rural tradition, and it would be a pity and unbearable for this country to do away with these traditions, which in fact can benefit from the assistance and the progress of modern technology. So, let us say that we are stressing this aspect but we do not want to (?impose) it. For example, we had very serious talks on the problem of phosphate. [end recording]